

PEOPLE, PRAYER, PATIENCE, AND A PROPHETIC HARVEST

⁷Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. ⁸You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

James 5:7-8 NASB

- Be patient until the Lord Comes! What??
 - What kind of patience is James talking about?
 - He is talking about the patience of the farmer.
 - The patience of the farmer is an expectant patience.
 - Recognize the need for the early and the latter rains before there can be a harvest.
 - The farmer knows the rules of harvest, of increase.
 - We reap 'like kind'...if we plant corn seed we will reap corn, etc.
 - We reap more than we sow...one corn seed produces several ears of corn.
 - We reap later than we sow...after we have sown.
 - We can't hurry the harvest; it will never be 'due time' if you refuse to do the time it takes to produce the harvest.
 - Abraham took what he needed when he left his homeland plus Lot and Hagar.
 - Difficulties between the herdsmen and Lot resulted in Lot moving to Sodom.
 - Involvement with Hagar resulted in the birth of nations that would become Israel's enemies.
 - We can save a lot of time and heartaches if we are patient and wait on God for the harvest and the increase of His processes.
 - We need to be in patient, expectant waiting on God; while we leave room for His 'suddenlies.'
 - James tells us to be patient and to strengthen our hearts.
 - Be strong in your inner man.
 - Not because the Lord is delaying His coming but because He is coming soon.

- The patience and strengthening of our hearts is not because we need to wait but that we need to be awake to welcome Him. (**James 5:8**)

⁹Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. ¹⁰As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

James 5:9-10 NASB

- Jeremiah in stocks

When Pashhur the priest, the son of Immer, who was chief officer in the house of the Lord, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things, ²Pashhur had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put him in the stocks that were at the upper Benjamin Gate, which was by the house of the Lord. ³On the next day, when Pashhur released Jeremiah from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, “Pashhur is not the name the Lord has called you, but rather Magor-missabib.

Jeremiah 20:1-3 NASB

- Jeremiah in jail

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. ²Now at that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the guard, which *was in* the house of the king of Judah, ³because Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, “Why do you prophesy, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Behold, I am about to give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will take it; **Jeremiah 32:1-3 NASB**

- Jeremiah in a muddy cistern

Now Shephatiah the son of Mattan, and Gedaliah the son of Pashhur, and Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur the son of Malchijah heard the words that Jeremiah was speaking to all the people, saying, ²“Thus says the Lord, ‘He who stays in this city will die by the sword and by famine and by pestilence, but he who goes out to the Chaldeans will live and have his *own* life as booty and stay alive.’ ³Thus says the Lord, ‘This city will certainly be given into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon and he will capture it.’” ⁴Then the officials said to the king, “Now let this man be put to death, inasmuch as he is discouraging the men of war who are left in this city and all the people, by speaking such words to them; for this man is not seeking the well-being of this people but rather their harm.” ⁵So King Zedekiah said, “Behold, he is in your hands; for the king can *do* nothing

against you.”⁶ Then they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchijah the king’s son, which was in the court of the guardhouse; and they let Jeremiah down with ropes. Now in the cistern there was no water but only mud, and Jeremiah sank into the mud. **Jeremiah 38:1-6 NASB**

- Jeremiah and the ten day wait

²and said to Jeremiah the prophet, “Please let our petition come before you, and pray for us to the LORD your God, *that is* for all this remnant; because we are left *but* a few out of many, as your own eyes *now* see us, ³that the LORD your God may tell us the way in which we should walk and the thing that we should do.”⁴ Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, “I have heard *you*. Behold, I am going to pray to the LORD your God in accordance with your words; and I will tell you the whole message which the LORD will answer you. I will not keep back a word from you.”⁵ Then they said to Jeremiah, “May the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act in accordance with the whole message with which the LORD your God will send you to us. ⁶Whether *it* is pleasant or unpleasant, we will listen to the voice of the LORD our God to whom we are sending you, so that it may go well with us when we listen to the voice of the LORD our God.”⁷ Now at the end of ten days the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 42:2-7 NASB

- Sometimes prophets spoke and it was years before the words were fulfilled.

¹¹We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful. ¹²But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment. **James 5:11-12 NASB**

- Job was not fully patient. Patience?? No not completely but he had tremendous perseverance in very difficult circumstances.

then Job responded, ²“Truly then you are the people,
And with you wisdom will die! ³“But I have intelligence as well as you;
I am not inferior to you. And who does not know such things as these?

Job 12:1-3 NASB

“Behold, my eye has seen all *this*, My ear has heard and understood it. ²“What you know I also know; I am not inferior to you. ³“But I would speak to the Almighty,

And I desire to argue with God. ⁴“But you smear with lies; You are all worthless physicians. **Job 13:1-4 NASB**

Then Job answered, ²“I have heard many such things; Sorry comforters are you all. ³“Is there *no* limit to windy words? Or what plagues you that you answer? ⁴“I too could speak like you, If I were in your place. I could compose words against you and shake my head at you. ⁵“I could strengthen you with my mouth, and the solace of my lips could lessen *your pain*. **Job 16:1-5 NASB**

¹³Now on the day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, ¹⁴a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵and the Sabeans attacked and took them. They also slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” ¹⁶While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” ¹⁷While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and took them and slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” ¹⁸While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, ¹⁹and behold, a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people and they died, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

²⁰Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. ²¹He said,

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,
And naked I shall return there.

The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

²²Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

Job 1:13-22 NASB

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. ²The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.” ³The Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause.” ⁴Satan answered the Lord and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your

face.”⁶ So the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life.”⁷ Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.⁸ And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes.

⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!”

Job 2:1-9 NASB

¹⁰ The Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the Lord increased all that Job had twofold.¹¹ Then all his brothers and all his sisters and all who had known him before came to him, and they ate bread with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversities that the Lord had brought on him. And each one gave him one piece of money, and each a ring of gold.¹² The Lord blessed the latter *days* of Job more than his beginning; and he had 14,000 sheep and 6,000 camels and 1,000 yoke of oxen and 1,000 female donkeys.¹³ He had seven sons and three daughters.

Job 42:10-13 NASB

⁶ After this, Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons and his grandsons, four generations.¹⁷ And Job died, an old man and full of days.

Job 42:16-17 NASB

- The power of prayer

¹³ Is anyone among you afflicted (ill-treated, suffering evil)? He should pray. Is anyone glad at heart? He should sing praise [to God].¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? He should call in the church elders (the spiritual guides). And they should pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Lord’s name.¹⁵ And the prayer [that is] of faith will save him who is sick, and the Lord will restore him; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.¹⁶ Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed *and* restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].¹⁷ Elijah was a human being with a nature such as we have [with feelings, affections, and a constitution like ours]; and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months.¹⁸ And [then] he prayed again and the heavens supplied rain and the land produced its crops [as usual].

James 5:13-18 AMPC

- Power in prayer, **James 13-18**
 - Is anyone afflicted, ill-treated or suffering? He should pray (**v13**)
 - Is anyone glad at heart? He should praise.

- Is anyone sick? Call for the elders of the church. They will pray and the faith filled prayers will heal the sick.

¹⁶Therefore, confess your sins to one another [your false steps, your offenses], and pray for one another, that you may be healed *and* restored. The heartfelt *and* persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) can accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power]. ¹⁷Elijah was a man with a nature like ours [with the same physical, mental, and spiritual limitations and shortcomings], and he prayed intensely for it not to rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its crops [as usual].

James 5:16-18 AMP

¹⁹[My] brethren, if anyone among you strays from the Truth *and* falls into error and another [person] brings him back [to God], ²⁰Let the [latter] one be sure that whoever turns a sinner from his evil course will save [that one's] soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins [procure the pardon of the many sins committed by the convert].

James 5:19-20 AMPC

- The power of prayer is in seeing people turn to the Lord and return to the Lord. (v19-20)