

Help! I'm being oppressed!

James 5:7-12

James 5:7-12

Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return.

Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. ⁸ You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹ Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is

James 5:7-12

standing at the door!

¹⁰ For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.

James 5:7-12

¹² But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.

James 5:4-6

**For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.
5 You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you.**

DON'T RESIST

James 5:4-6 For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

⁵ You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you.

DON'T RESIST

Luke 6:27-31

“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. ³⁰ Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. ³¹ Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

DON'T RESIST

Romans 12:19-21

Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the Lord. ²⁰ Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.” ²¹

Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

DON'T RESIST

1 Peter 2:18-23

You who are slaves must submit to your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you—not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel. ¹⁹ For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment. ²⁰ Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

DON'T RESIST

1 Peter 2:18-23

²¹ For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. ²² He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. ²³ He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

DON'T RESIST

Human nature moves us to react in "justifiable anger"

Human wisdom calls for "standing up for my rights"

DON'T RESIST

James 5:8-9

You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹ Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!

DON'T RESIST

***We must have a willingness
to let Him be our avenger***

DON'T RESIST

Luke 18:6-8

Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. ⁷ Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?”

BE PATIENT

Luke 6:27-31

“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. ³⁰ Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. ³¹ Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

BE PATIENT

Patient = “to suffer long”

A patient holding out under trial; a long-protracted restraint of the soul from yielding to passion, especially the passion of anger

The thought links itself naturally with that in the preceding verse: "the righteous does not resist"

BE PATIENT

The Farmer

James 5:7

Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen.

BE PATIENT

The Prophets

James 5:10

For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

BE PATIENT

Job

James 5:11

We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

DO NOT GRUMBLE

James 5:9

Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

DO NOT GRUMBLE

1 Corinthians 10:9-11

Nor should we put Christ to the test, as some of them did and then died from snakebites. ¹⁰

And don't grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. ¹¹

These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age.

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

DO NOT GRUMBLE

***The same Lord who will judge those
who oppress others will judge those
who murmur and grumble!***

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

DON'T MAKE RASH PROMISES

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

As you enter the house of God, keep your ears open and your mouth shut. It is evil to make mindless offerings to God. ² Don't make rash promises, and don't be hasty in bringing matters before God. After all, God is in heaven, and you are here on earth. So let your words be few.

³ Too much activity gives you restless dreams;

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

DON'T MAKE RASH PROMISES

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

too many words make you a fool.

⁴ When you make a promise to God, don't delay in following through, for God takes no pleasure in fools. Keep all the promises you make to him. ⁵ It is better to say nothing than to make a promise and not keep it. ⁶ Don't let your mouth make you sin. And don't defend yourself by telling the Temple messenger that the promise

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

DON'T MAKE RASH PROMISES

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

God angry, and he might wipe out everything you have achieved.

⁷ Talk is cheap, like daydreams and other useless activities. Fear God instead.

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

DON'T MAKE RASH PROMISES

Matthew 5:33-37

“You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the Lord.’³⁴

But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God’s throne.

³⁵ And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

DON'T MAKE RASH PROMISES

Matthew 5:33-37

for you can't turn one hair white or black. ³⁷

Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.'

Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

DON'T MAKE RASH PROMISES

Matthew 23:16-22

Blind guides! What sorrow awaits you! For you say that it means nothing to swear 'by God's Temple,' but that it is binding to swear 'by the gold in the Temple.' ¹⁷ Blind fools! Which is more important—the gold or the Temple that makes the gold sacred? ¹⁸ And you say that to swear 'by the altar' is not binding, but to swear 'by the gifts on the altar' is binding. ¹⁹ How

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

DON'T MAKE RASH PROMISES

Matthew 23:16-22

blind! For which is more important—the gift on the altar or the altar that makes the gift sacred?

²⁰ When you swear ‘by the altar,’ you are swearing by it and by everything on it. ²¹ And when you swear ‘by the Temple,’ you are swearing by it and by God, who lives in it. ²² And when you swear ‘by heaven,’ you are swearing by the throne of God and by God, who sits on the throne.

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

DON'T MAKE RASH PROMISES

The solution is to refrain from oaths altogether, and simply stand by your word.

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

PRAY

James 5:13

Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises.

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

PRAY

James 5:4

For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

PRAY

Luke 18:7-8

Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?"

SO HOW DO WE ACT?

PRAY

James 5:7-8

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SO HOW DO WE ACT?

PRAY

***It may not come when we want it, but
God WILL avenge us if we are patient***

When we are being oppressed...

DON'T RESIST

BE PATIENT

DON'T GRUMBLE

DON'T MAKE RASH PROMISES

PRAY!

BE LIKE JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES

1 Peter 2:23

He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

1 Peter 4:19

So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.

With such a righteous God on our side, it should be a lot easier to endure those who oppress us!

