

JAMES (LIVE LIKE IT) PART 10 - PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE: WINNING THE BATTLE (or How to Be Ready for the Second Coming)

INTRO. GIRL BEING DRAWN IN BY BOYFRIEND. THEN IMPRISONED IN CAR UNTIL MOTHER (WHO SHE HAD ONCE TURNED ON) CALLED POLICE AND HELP CAME, AND SHE WAS FREED. SHE ONCE RAN TO HIM. BUT WHEN SHE SAW WHAT HE WAS REALLY LIKE, SHE RAN AWAY FROM HIM TO FREEDOM. JESUS IS COMING BACK SOME DAY TO FREE US! Sometimes from what we have chosen instead of Him!

HURRICANE IRMA, HARVEY, CLIMATE CHANGE, ISIS, GODLESSNESS IN AMERICA AND EUROPE - ARE THESE SIGNS OF THE TIMES? WATER LAPPED UP FROM BEACH IN CARIBBEAN, WOMAN DELIVERING BABY ON HER OWN, ETC.

"BIRTH PANGS" INCREASE IN INTENSITY BEFORE THIS GREAT EVENT WE LOOK FORWARD TO. AS WE SURPASS A WORLD POPULATION OF 7 BILLION. MORE PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS BE EFFECTED AND THINGS WILL GROW IN INTENSITY. HOW DO WE PREPARE?

DO: TO LIVE LIFE MORE MEANINGFULLY AS IF HE WAS COMING AT ANY TIME. TO DEVELOP PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE IN TRIALS OF LIFE.

LEFT OFF LAST WK. TALKING ABOUT RICH OPPRESSORS PERSECUTING THE POOR IN JAMES' DAY. SO HE SPEAKS FURTHER IN THIS LAST CHAPTER TO JEWISH CHRISTIANS DISPERSED AND PERSECUTED, MISTREATED - REMINDS THEM TO BE PATIENT FOR JUSTICE TO COME WHEN THE MESSIAH, JESUS COMES AGAIN TO FREE THEM. . .

I. JAMES 5:7-9. Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

A. EARLY CHURCH BELIEVED JESUS WOULD COME AT ANY MOMENT. THEY MAY HAVE BEEN GETTING DISCOURAGED IN THEIR SUFFERING

AND WAITING FOR JUSTICE AND BEGAN TURNING ON ONE ANOTHER. GRUMBLING THAT SOME WERE CAUSING THE PERSECUTION, NOT DOING THEIR PART, (music volume, preaching being fed vs reaching out, etc.) HIS ADMONITION IS TO PERSEVERE AND TURN TO GOD VS TURNING ON EA. OTHER.

***JUST AS FARMER IN PALESTINE MUST WAIT ON MERCIFUL AUTUMN RAIN TO GERMINATE THE SEEDS THEY PLANT, AND THE SPRING RAINS TO MATURE WHAT WAS SOWN, THE BELIEVER NEEDS TO BE PATIENT AND WAIT ON JESUS' RETURN AND BE READY FOR THE HARVEST.**

3. AS IT TURNED OUT, EARLY CHURCH WAS WRONG ABOUT THE TIMING. JESUS SAID IN MARK 13:32 - NO MAN KNOWS THE DAY OR THE HOUR— NOT EVEN HIM, BEFORE HIS ASCENSION TO THE FATHER).

JW'S WHEN THEIR DATES DIDN'T PAN OUT, SAY HE CAME INVISIBLY. (BUT JESUS SAID IN **MATT. 24:26-27 “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. 27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of**

Man. – LIKE LIGHTENING STRIKING FROM EAST TO WEST)

B. WHY IS JESUS WAITING? IF HE IS COMING AGAIN WHAT IS TAKING SO LONG?

- 1. 2 PETER 3:8-9 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. – YOU AND I NEED TO BE THANKFUL HE DIDN'T COME LAST NIGHT BECAUSE OF THE FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE NOT YET READY. THAT IS WHY HE WAITS. HE WISHES ALL TO COME TO REPENTANCE. TO HIM A COUPLE THOUSAND YEARS IS NOTHING WHEN IT MEANS THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HE LOVES. MORE CAN COME. MORE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO KNOW HIM THROUGH US, HIS CHURCH IF FAITHFUL AND FRUITFUL. WHY WE STARTED SOLID GROUND! TO PLANT SEEDS AND BUILD UP TO MATURITY. WE NEED TO BE PATIENT TO SEE A HARVEST!**

2. FOCUS IN JAMES AND PETER'S LETTERS IS NOT SO MUCH ON TIMING/SPECULATION, *BUT ON LIVING EA. DAY AS IF HE COULD COME AT ANY MOMENT.* THE NEED TO BE PREPARED. WE WON'T HAVE TIME TO GET READY ONCE HE COMES! READ 2 PETER 3:10-13 *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.[a]*

11 *Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives* **12** *as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.[b]* *That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.* **13** *But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.* (jot down 3 THINGS you would do if you knew Jesus was coming by the end of next week. . .). **WHY NOT TODAY?**

***HIS COMING – AS SUDDEN AND OBVIOUS AS LIGHTNING/AS UNEXPECTED AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT.**

3. JESUS' RETURN HAS ALWAYS BEEN MOTIVATION TO LIVE LIFE FULLY DEVOTED TO

GOD. PARABLE IN MATT. 24:42-44. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

**II. HOW DO WE SHOW PATIENCE/
FORBEARANCE THROUGH SUFFERING AS WE
WAIT? (ISIS, FLOODS, FIRE, DISEASE, N.
KOREA, ETC.). (JAMES 5:10-11 Brothers and
sisters, as an example of patience in the face of
suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the
name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we count as
blessed those who have persevered. You have
heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what
the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of
compassion and mercy.)**

**A. "BECAUSE OF INCREASE OF WICKEDNESS
MOST PEOPLE'S LOVE WILL GROW COLD. . .BUT
HE WHO STANDS FIRM TO THE END" – MATT.
24:13**

1. GIVES JOB AS EXAMPLE – WE PICTURE AS SOMEONE DIDN'T DOUBT DURING TRIALS. BOOK OF JOB = FAR MORE REAL THAN THAT. . .PASSIONATELY RESENTED/PASSIONATELY QUESTIONED – BUT QUALITY ABOUT JOB THAT KEPT HIM GOING WAS THAT HE STILL PASSIONATELY TURNED TO GOD IN ALL OF IT (POURED HIS HEART OUT TO GOD. THOUGH HIS FAITH WAS TORTURED W. QUESTIONS AND HIS FRIENDS DIDN'T REALLY HELP - STILL HE DIDN'T GIVE UP AND FOUND GOD TO BE MERCIFUL IN THE END).

***THERE ARE MOMENTS WE WHITE KNUCKLE IT; START TO GO DOUBLE MINDED, GET ANGRY; WONDER IF WE ARE FORGOTTEN BY GOD, BUT NEED TO HOLD ON TO REMNANTS OF FAITH AND WHAT WE DO KNOW. (JOB COULDN'T SEE THE DRAMA BEHIND THE SCENES IN CH. 1-2).**

***WE NEED TO TRUST GOD WILL BLESS US IN THE END. (JOB 42:12-13**

12 The Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. 13 And he also had seven sons and three daughters.) WE

COME TO KNOW GOD IN A DEEPER WAY IN THE MIDST. READY FOR WHATEVER COMES.

JOB NEVER GOT ANSWERS FOR THE “WHY”S, BUT HE DID GET GOD’S PEACE AND BLESSING IN THE END. {HE DIDN’T GIVE JOB UNDERSTANDING, BUT HE DID GIVE HIM THE PEACE THAT *SURPASSES* UNDERSTANDING – SEE PHIL. 4:6-7}

III. MAKING OATHS/SWEARING – **JAMES 5:12.**

Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear –not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned.

A. SOME WERE MAKING IT AN ART TO WORD OATHS IN A WAY THAT WAS NOT BINDING BY LEAVING GOD OUT. WE NEED TO REALIZE GOD IS PRESENT ALL THE TIME IN THE DECISIONS WE MAKE WHETHER WE MENTION HIS NAME OR NOT.

JAMES POINT: WHEN CHARACTER IS RIGHT, NO NEED FOR OATHS. SO AS CHRIST FOLLOWERS A “YES OR NO” SHOULD SUFFICE. DON’T BE FLAKEY AND SAY YES, AND THEN NOT FOLLOW THROUGH. ON OTHER HAND, BE MORE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY YES TO AND HAVE

SOME HEALTHIER BOUNDARIES SO YOU ARE NOT SEEN AS UNFAITHFUL BY OTHERS.

FAITHFULNESS = FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT AND NEEDED TO ENDURE TO THE END!

IS IT WORTH ENDURING TO THE END? REV. 21:4-7 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'[a] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. (BACKED UP BY RESURRECTION, FULFILLED PROPHECY – 1ST COMING/WHY NOT SECOND?)

IV. JAMES 5:13-18 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

A. IF WORRIED/TROUBLED ABOUT SOMETHING. . .PRAY. (see promise in **Philippians 4:6-7**. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all

understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.) IF WE JUST TOOK THIS TO HEART WOULD SLEEP BETTER, AVOID HOST OF OTHER ANXIETIES THAT CAN MAKE US SICK.

B. IF HAPPY/JOYFUL – SING

1. WORSHIP = CELEBRATION/PRAYER. EXPRESSES OUR GRATITUDE AND LOVE FOR GOD. SUNDAY REFLECTS OUR RELATIONSHIP W. HIM DURING THE WEEK. CAN ALSO BE THERAPEUTIC

***IE, PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON – SANG HYMNS OF PRAISE AND FOCUSED ON GOD VS SURROUNDINGS. LIFTED EVERYONE'S SPIRITS. (HAD MY KIDS DO THIS WHEN I HAD KIDNEY STONES IN MY 30'S. A FEW MONTHS LATER SOMETHING HAPPENED AND JOEL STARTED SINGING THOSE SONGS AGAIN!)**

C. IF SICK – ASK LEADERS AND PEOPLE OF CHURCH TO PRAY. CONFESS SIN TO GOD AND RECEIVE HIS FORGIVENESS/CONFESS FAULTS TO ONE ANOTHER AND BEAR EA. OTHERS BURDENS. (HELPS TO FORGIVE YOURSELF AND STAY ACCOUNTABLE)

***THERE IS THIS WHOLE *PRESCRIPTION* HERE FOR WHOLENESS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP W. GOD AND OTHERS. HEALING INSIDE AND OUT.**

D. WHO DID PEOPLE TURN TO FOR CURES AT TIME THIS WAS WRITTEN?

a. Local cults/Medicine men/early physicians – blood letting, drill holes in your head to relieve depression (skulls found), stick a burning swab up your nose to cleanse the demons, sacrifices to ward off the curse.)

***OFTEN PEOPLE DIED FROM “THE SUPPOSED CURE”**

***ILLUS. IN AFRICA AIDS WAS SPREAD PARTLY BY GOING TO THE WITCH DOCTOR/MEDICINE MEN AND BEING TOLD TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH A YOUNG VIRGIN GIRL AND DISEASE WOULD LEAVE.**

****MISSIONARIES HAVE MADE A DIFF. WHAT YOU BELIEVE DOES MATTER. SOME BELIEFS ARE DESTRUCTIVE! YET IN THE MODERN**

UNIVERSITIES YOUR KIDS CAN TAKE CLASSES IN SHAMANISM, WHILE CHRISTIANITY IS DENOUNCED. YOUR TAXPAYER DOLLARS HARD AT WORK!

3. JAMES SAYS TO THESE NEW CONVERTS, INSTEAD OF SEEKING THESE KINDS OF FALSE REMEDIES, GO TO YOUR CHURCH LEADERS AND HAVE THEM. . .

FIRST: Pray to get well. JUSTIN MARTYR (AD 100-165) REPORTS “GIFT OF HEALING” STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE IN THE EARLY CHURCH AND THAT DEMONIACS WERE CURED BY NO ONE ELSE! (OUR EXPERIENCE)

SECOND: Anoint with oil – 2 KINDS MENTIONED IN N.T. ONE (“CHRIO”)USED FOR RELIGIOUS CEREMONY – SYMBOLIC OF HOLY SPIRIT BEING Poured OUT ON KINGS (IE, SAMUEL ON SAUL)

(“ALEIPHO”) MORE COMMON HOUSEHOLD OIL MENTIONED SEV. TIMES IN N.T. AND BY EARLY HISTORIANS USED AS MEDICINE LIKE WE WOULD USE SALVE ON A WOUND OR BALM CHAPSTICK = LIP BALM.

****THIS = WORD USED HERE SO IN EFFECT JAMES SAYS. . .INSTEAD OF A PHONY CURE**

FROM SOMEONE WHO WILL CAUSE MORE HARM THAN GOOD. . .

Go to God in prayer and use medicine

(IN MODERN TIMES DISPENSED BY THE DOCTOR VS RABBI OR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH)

THAT COMBINATION WORKS! AND IF THE PERSON *HAS* COMMITTED SIN, GOD CAN FORGIVE THAT TOO AND BRING HEALING INSIDE AND OUT! SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY!

***THE LORD WILL RAISE HIM UP.**

**MY PHYSICIAN WHEN FIRST OUT ON MY OWN –
“**God does the healing, the doctor collects the fee.**” JAMES IS GIVING GOD CREDIT AS THE HEALER WHETHER USING MEDICINE OR NOT.**

WHAT ARE CONDITIONS FOR ANSWERED PRAYER?

JESUS’ MODEL PRAYER – **MATT. 6:10**

1 JOHN 5:14-15. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we

know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

IS IT THE TEACHING OF THE N.T. THAT IT IS ALWAYS GOD’S WILL TO HEAL EVERYONE PHYSICALLY?

Said no to

- a. **Paul – 2 Corinthians 12:8-9. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.**
- b. **Extended King Hezekiah’s life, but later died. Joni Erickson Tada – has raised her up in a different way.**
- c. **No to Billy Graham – Still has Parkinson’s but God has prolonged his life and ministry**

- f. **No to all of us eventually when we die, but yes to a better life.**

Yes to. . .

a. leper - **Mark 1:40-41 A man with leprosy[a] came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."**

41 Jesus was indignant.[b] He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!". Healed some and not others. Had to move on. Came to primarily to seek and to save the lost.

b. Bob G.

c. Janice, Miriam

d. Emily

Said WAIT to Job – a righteous man – why God stresses perseverance.

E. ISAIAH 53:5. But he was pierced for our transgressions,

he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him,

and by his wounds we are healed. DOES THIS VERSE IN CONTEXT PROMISE EVERYONE A PHYSICAL HEALING? (this just doesn't happen every time so how could it mean that?)

WHY DID JESUS COME? TO DIE FOR OUR EARTHLY BODIES OR OUR SOULS?

CONCLUSION:

END OF JAMES 5:16 - THE EFFECTIVE PRAYER OF A *RIGHTEOUS PERSON CAN ACCOMPLISH MUCH* (GET RID OF HINDRANCES LIKE – BITTERNESS (hard to raise your hands in prayer when your fists are clinched), UNCONFESSED SIN, TURNING A DEAF EAR TO THE POOR – CAN BUILD WALLS AGAINST EFFECTIVE PRAYER.)

ELIJAH GIVEN AS EXAMPLE

****WHAT = PRAYER GOD ALWAYS ANSWERS – IT IS HIS WILL TO BRING PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE. (JOHN 6:40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.)** EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS NOT ALL WILL RESPOND TO HIS INVITATION – YOU NEED TO THIS MORNING! ELIJAH PRAYED FOR ISRAEL TO COME BACK AND THEY DID, AT LEAST FOR A TIME. AND NEXT WEEK HOW TO PRAY AND LEAD A FRIEND WHO HAS WANDERED AWAY. PRAY AND INVITE SOMEONE BACK!! HE WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU IN

THOSE PURSUITS. ..WHY WE STARTED THIS CHURCH AND WHY IT HAS LASTED 10 YEARS. NEXT WK. WILL CELEBRATE.

****PRAYER STATIONS SET UP AT COMMUNION AFTER YOU PARTAKE DURING LAST SONG/ VIDEO – PUT WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED INTO PRACTICE. GO TO GOD INSTEAD OF SOME OTHER SOURCE THAT HAS NOT WORKED FOR YOU. PRAY. START READING THRU THE BOOK OF ACTS FOR NEXT SERIES!**

PRAY - NICK LEADS INTO COMMUNION

PRAYER STATIONS

1. WRITE A PRAYER TO GOD FOR SOMEONE YOU LOVE TO COME TO KNOW HIM ON THE 3x5 CARD PROVIDED AND PLACE IT IN THE BASKET AS AN OFFERING TO GOD OR CARRY IT WITH YOU TO REMEMBER TO CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THEM. . .

2. WRITE A QUESTION TO GOD ASKING HIM ABOUT SOMETHING YOU HAVE ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT AND PLACE IT IN THE BASKET PROVIDED. ASK FOR HIS PEACE THAT SURPASSES UNDERSTANDING.

**3. SHARE A BURDEN WITH GOD THAT YOU
HAVE CARRIED TOO LONG ON A WHITE CARD
AND LAY IT AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS.**

**4. LIST SOME THINGS YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR
ON THE WHITE BOARD.**

