

The Power of Patience

James 5:7–12

How can we as Christians experience this kind of patient endurance as we wait for the Lord to return?

To answer that question (and need), James gave **three encouraging examples** of patient endurance.

1. The Farmer (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!*

1. The Farmer (5:7–9)

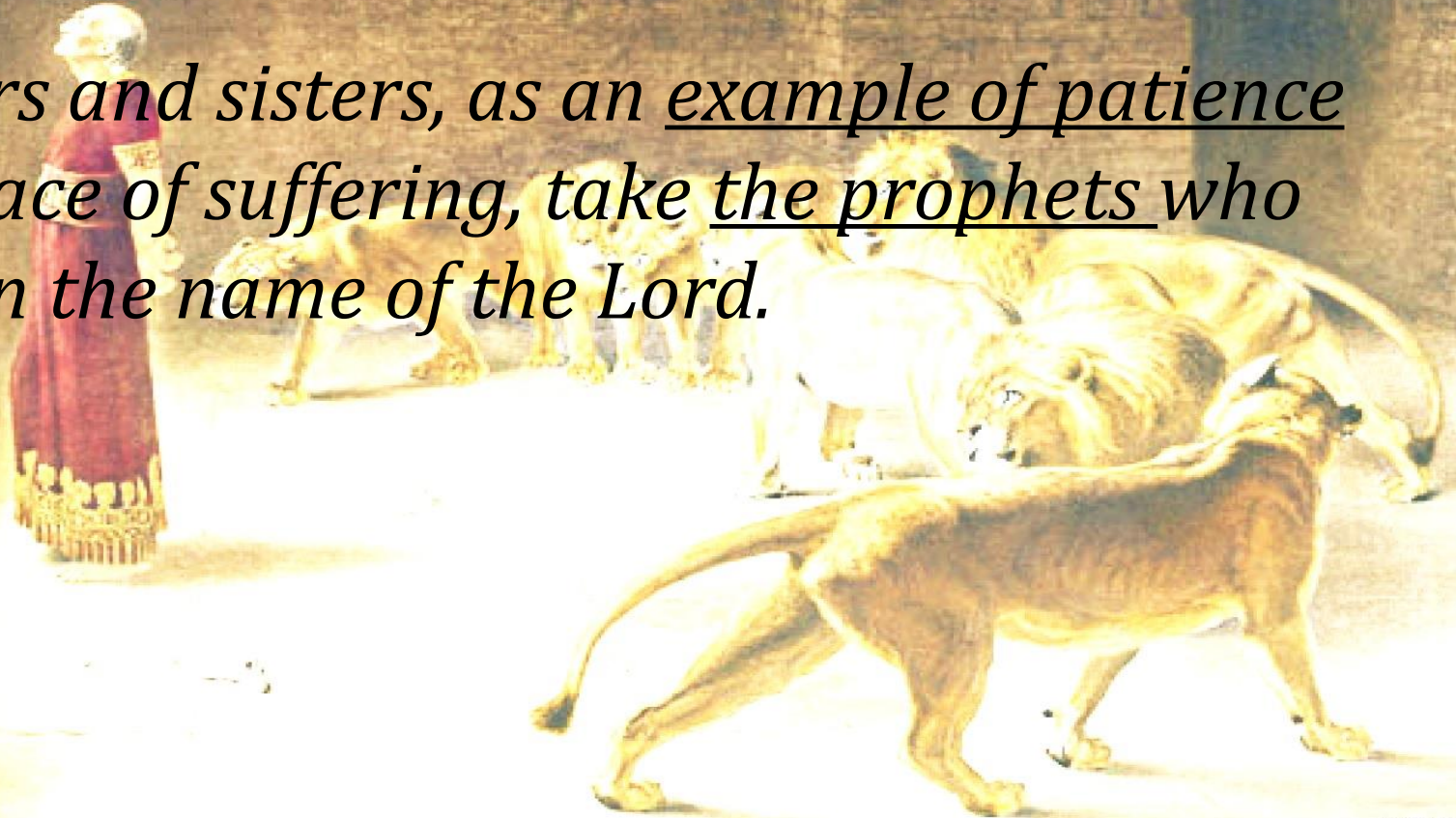
- James pictured the Christian as a “spiritual farmer” looking for a spiritual harvest.

... James 5:8

- Our hearts are the soil, and the “*seed is the word of God*” (Luke 8:11)
- **A heart that is not established can not bear fruit**

2. The Prophets (5:10)

Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.



**The will of God will never lead you where the
grace of God cannot keep you**

3. Job (5:11–12)

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.

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.

- God has to balance privileges with responsibilities, blessings with burdens, or else you and I will become spoiled, pampered children

In the first three chapters you have Job's distress: he loses his wealth, his family (except for his wife, and she told him to commit suicide), and his health.

In Job 4–31 we read Job's defense, as he debates with his three friends and answers their false accusations.

Job 38–42 presents Job's deliverance: first God humbles Job, and then He honors Job and gives him twice as much as he had before.

- James wanted to encourage us to be patient in times of suffering. Like the farmer, we are waiting for a spiritual harvest, for fruit that will glorify God. Like the prophets, we look for opportunities for witness, to share the truth of God. And, like Job, we wait for the Lord to fulfill His loving purpose, knowing that He will never cause His children to suffer needlessly. And, like Job, we shall have a clearer vision of the Lord and come to know Him better for having been in the furnace of affliction.

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