



FAITH, FREEDOM, & FITNESS

DAILY BREAD

Monday, February 23

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.



You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Last week, James condemned rich unbelievers who were oppressing poverty-stricken Christians. In today's verses from James 5:7-9, he turns to encourage these suffering believers, urging them to be patient as they wait for the Lord's coming:

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.

According to worldly perspectives, their wealthy oppressors appeared to be winning. But, according to James, the day of the Lord – or the “day of slaughter” – was coming. James already taught us that these rich people should start crying now in anticipation of the misery headed their way, but the Lord will keep His promises to the faithful.

James continues to urge us in verse 8 to be patient as we wait for the coming of the Lord. He tells us to strengthen our hearts, to not waver, especially when they're so close to receiving God's promise:

You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.



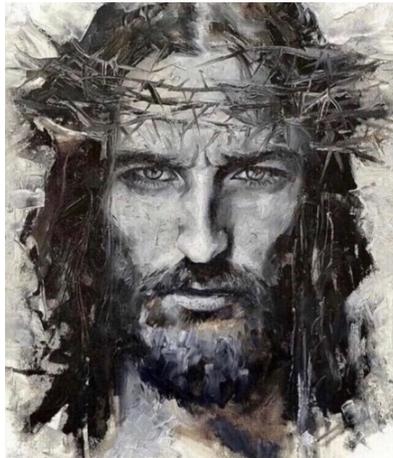
While we cannot control the timing of the Lord's coming, we can control how we respond to the waiting. The reality of God's promise, His pledge to rescue us and make things right, gives us the ability to stand strong, even when our circumstances are difficult.

James concludes this section by warning us not to grumble against each other, which shows a lack of trust in God:

***Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters,
or you will be judged.
The Judge is standing at the door!***

We, too, would be wise not to risk God's judgment by giving into the pressure of our suffering this side of eternity and turning on each other. The temptation to go back and live according to the world's wisdom grows stronger with our suffering, and the result of that sin is always greater than the conflict between us.

In Christ, Spero



*For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him
should not perish,
but have everlasting life.*

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