



GROWING UP!

Becoming a Mature Believer

Thursday Night Series on the Book of James

MIDWEEK SERVICE | THURSDAY, JUNE 4

Chapter 5: Which Do You Choose?

James 1:4 *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

- Where we are at now or end up at in any area of our life, is determined by our choices.
 - If we're in a good place = We made _____ choices.
 - If we're in a bad place = We made _____ choices.
- This last chapter shows us three keys areas of our spiritual life where we must choose wisely.

1. _____ or Selfishness?

1 Corinthians 4:2 *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

Proverbs 11:28 *He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.*

Malachi 3:10 *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

Matthew 6:19-20 *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:*

Choosing Selfishness over Stewardship Causes Issues.

a. It Causes Us to Have _____

- It can bring _____

James 5:1 *Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.*

Proverbs 10:22 *The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.*

- It can't bring _____

2 *Your riches are corrupted, ...*

- It can't bring _____

2 *...and your garments are motheaten.*

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

- It can bring _____

3 *Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.*

b. It Causes Us to _____ People

James 5:4 *Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.*

Jeremiah 22:13 *Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work;*

c. It Causes Us to Harm _____

- In their _____

5 *Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ...*

- In their _____

5 ...ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

- In their _____

6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

Perhaps the worst form of tragedy is wanting something badly, getting it, and finding it empty.

— Henry Kissinger

2. _____ or Pressured?

- Two Types of Patience Needed:
 - In _____.
 - In _____.
- Patience = To stay put with, to _____ what is taking place in your life, when you would rather run away, and doing so without becoming resentful or _____.

a. The _____ of Patience

James 5:7 *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*

1 Peter 2:21-23 *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:*

- The reward is worth the _____.

Galatians 6:9 *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

- The secret of endurance is realizing that God wants to produce _____ in your life.

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

b. The _____ of Patience

James 5:8-9 *Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. 9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.*

- _____ Your Heart

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 *And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: 13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.*

- _____ Your Brethren

Galatians 6:10 *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

- _____ Your Lord

c. The _____ of Patience

James 5:10-12 *Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. 11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. 12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.*

- He gives us two Old Testament pictures of patience:

- _____.

Acts 7:52 *Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:*

- _____.

Job 1:21-22 *And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. 22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.*

3. _____ or Pride?

- The first and foremost reason to pray is because we are _____ to.
- We pray two ways:
 - _____.

Matthew 6:6 *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*

- _____.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 *Pray without ceasing.*

What are the reasons given here for praying?

a. We pray _____.

13 *Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms*

b. We pray _____.

14 *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: 15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up;*

c. We pray _____.

15 *...and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*

d. We pray _____.

16 *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed...*

e. We pray _____.

16 *...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

f. We pray _____.

17 *Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space*

*of three years and six months. 18 And he **prayed** again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*

g. We pray _____.

19 *Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.*