

How to Really Live

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I. Introduction.

A. James was written to those under pressure.

B. Text: James 5:7-12.

II. Be patient.

A. This is a self-restraint that will keep one from retaliating against irritating people and frustrating circumstances.

1. You hurt those who are closest to you the most. (Psalm 15)
2. We are to be patient in irritating circumstances and with irritating people.
3. We have hope because Jesus is coming and all wrongs will be righted.

B. The benefits of patience are fruitfulness in the lives of people and happiness in one's circumstances.

1. God wants to use believers in the lives of people. In order to be fruitful in the lives of people one has to endure.

a. To do this one must establish his heart. This means to be single minded and to commit oneself to the job and people at hand.

1) Too often people do not really live in the present.

2) One ought to surrender to the place where God has him because God cannot use him where he is not.

b. To do this one must not grumble.

2. To be happy in one's circumstances it is important to remember the purpose of the Lord. God uses circumstances to produce stable and steadfast character—to be like Christ. (Romans 12:2)

3. To be happy in one's circumstances is not to swear. It is instead to give thanks.

III. Pray.

A. A good way to pray throughout the day is to pray at the start and praise at the finish.

B. James ends the book by encouraging his readers to ask God.

C. James was reputed to be very active in prayer himself.

Application questions

1. Explain the benefits of living a patient lifestyle.

2. What does James have to say about happiness?

3. How is your prayer life? What can you do this week to make prayer more constant throughout your day?
