

YES YOU CAN

JAMES 5:10-12

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: All Scripture should be understood within the context of the rest of Scripture. “This is simply the Reformation principle that Scripture interprets Scripture. The way to know the full and true meaning of any Bible passage is to know what the rest of the Bible says on the same theme.” Philip Ryken, *Exodus: Saved For God’s Glory*, p. 546. Therefore, we use references from the entire Bible.

LIKE THE PROPHETS, BE PATIENT. Believers and unbelievers clash because believers expose sin when they live godly lives. With the God of compassion and mercy living in you, the Holy Spirit gives you (like the prophets of old) grace and patience to withstand persecution by unbelievers. (**James 5:10, fn 5:10, 11, Matthew 5:10-12, fn 5:11, 12, I Peter 4:12-16, fn 4:14-16, John 14:18-21, fn 14:18, Galatians 5:22-25, fn 5:22, 23**) *How can you be patient?*

LIKE JOB, PERSEVERE. Satan wanted to prove that when confronted with pain and suffering Job would abandon God, but Job persevered through extreme trials. Knowing that God’s ultimate good purpose will come to pass, you can trust God’s compassion and mercy to help you (like Job) persevere through pain and suffering. (**James 5:11, Job 1:1, fn 1:1ff, Job 2:10, fn 2:10, Job 3:23-26, fn 23-26, Job 42:17, fn 42:17, Romans 8:18, 28, 29, fn 8:28, fn 8:29, John 14:1-3, fn 14:2, 3**) *What do you need to know to help you persevere through pain and suffering?*

LIKE JESUS, BE TRUTHFUL. Your speech reveals your spiritual condition. Like Jesus, “our speech should be so consistent and dependable that we need no oath to support it: a simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ should suffice.” Douglas Moo, *The Letter of James*, p. 233. “Our mere word should be as utterly trustworthy as a signed document, legally correct and complete.” C. L. Mitton, *The Epistle of James*, p.193. (**James 5:12, fn 5:12, Matthew 5:33-37, fn 5:33-37, Exodus 20:7, fn 20:7, Ephesians 4:25, fn 4:25, I John 2:28-3:3, fn 3:2, 3**) *What should be your guiding principle in speech?*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord? Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?

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