

Series Title: **Evidence of Genuine Faith: Faith That Works**  
Message Title: **Genuine Religion:**  
Text: **James 5**

## **DEPEND ON THE LORD FOR YOUR LIVELIHOOD – 5:1-6**

### **James 5:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> *Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.* <sup>2</sup> *Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten.* <sup>3</sup> *Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.* <sup>4</sup> *Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.* <sup>5</sup> *You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.* <sup>6</sup> *You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.*

### **Your gains are garbage – 1-2**

- *“Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten.”*
- *“Howl for the miseries that are coming...”*
- Our wealth is nothing in the sight of God.

### **Your treasures will only be torment – 3**

- *“Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire”*
- Focusing on your wealth as anything other than something to be stewarded toward God will be a witness and evidence against you.

### **Your fraud is fattened for slaughter – 4-6**

- *“You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.”*
- Treatment of employees and cheating them – The Lord has heard.
  - It not good business to be on the opposite side of God.

### **Why is Money Important?**

- The Bible is packed with over 2,000 scriptures about money, tithing in the Bible, and possessions.
  - That's twice as many Bible verses about money than faith and prayer combined. So, what the Bible says about money must be important.

- The heart of the matter is this: money can become something that rules our lives—an idol of sorts.
  - God's desire is for us to have life to the full and He knows that worshiping money will keep us from that.
- From the seduction of success to the lure of lust, many things in this world will vie for your affection and devotion.
  - But the most significant idol you will face is money.

**Matt. 6:24** *“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”*

### **Why is Stewardship Important?**

- Stats
  - 16 out of 38 of Jesus’ parables deal with money and possessions.
  - Nearly 25% of Jesus’ words in the New Testament deal with biblical stewardship.
  - 1 out of 10 verses in the Gospels deal with money.
- What did Jesus say about money? In the words of Jesus,

**Luke 12:34** *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”*

### **What are Some Principles about Money?**

- God owns everything.
- Money is about discipleship.
- Worship with your money.
- Fight for contentment.
- Kill greed in your heart.
- Be mindful of debt.
- Manage your finances.
- You will be held accountable for how you view and handle money.

**Job 41:11** *“Who has first given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine.”*

## **DEPEND ON THE LORD FOR YOUR PATIENCE – 5:7-12**

### **James 5:7-12**

<sup>7</sup> *Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

<sup>12</sup> *But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.*

### **Have Patience for His Return – 7**

- Be patient.
- Establish your hearts.
  - For the coming of the Lord is at hand.
- Jesus coming soon.

### **Have Patience with Others – 8-9**

- Do not grumble against others.
- Only He is the Judge.

### **Have Patience in the Lord’s Compassion – 10-11**

### **Isaiah 49:13**

*Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.*

- Blessed are those who are Patient
  - Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast
  - He sees what you are going through and has grace sufficient for your need right now in the moment

### **Hebrews 4:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

- Blessed are those who walk in His Purpose.
  - Job example - *You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord...*
  - A lesson in being patient in the midst of the storm
  - His purposes may very well be revealed and developed through struggle.
  - This is why we count it joy when we face these things.

### **Have Patience in the Lord's Promises – 12**

- You do not need to swear on anything.
- Speak the Truth – Jesus is Truth -
- Satan is the one who asked the question, “Did God really say?”
  - We abide by His word.
- The Lord is dependable.

### **Psalm 89:34**

*I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips.*

### **Hebrews 10:23**

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.*

## **DEPEND ON THE LORD IN YOUR PRAYERS – 5:13-18**

### **James 5:13-18**

*<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? 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. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.*

### **Prayer over suffering and sickness – 13-14**

- Suffering – pray to the Lord.
- Happy- sing to the Lord.
- Sick – seek the Body.
  - Elders anoint.
  - The prayer of faith will lift him up.

### **Psalm 103:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!*

<sup>2</sup> *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,*

<sup>3</sup> *who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases...*

### **Prayer over sins – 15-18**

- Confess sins and be healed.

### **Psalm 32:5**

*I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

- The prayer of the righteous has great power as it is working.
  - Righteous
  - We are righteous in Christ.

### **Rom. 5:19**

*For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.*

- Working in us
  - We have been made righteous in God's eyes in Christ
  - Yet that righteousness needs be working in us and through us
- Elijah example
  - He isn't any more special than you or me.
  - No rain for three years and 6 months

## **DEPEND ON THE LORD FOR RECONCILIATION – 5:19-20**

### **James 5:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> *My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, <sup>20</sup> let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.*

### **Rescue the wanderer – 19**

- Wander from the Truth

### **Gal. 6:1**

*Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness...*

## Reconcile the lost – 19

### 2 Cor. 5:17-21

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- Bringing them back

### Restore the soul – 20

- Salvation from death
- Sins covered

### Psalm 32:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

<sup>2</sup> Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity...

### 1 John 1:9

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

## CHALLENGE

I will steward my finances for the glory of God.

I will look for the Lord's return with patience in my struggles and with compassion for others.

I will go to the Lord for strength through suffering, prayer for healing, and confession of sins.

I will follow the Lord's guidance to meekly restore those who need to be reconciled with God.