



**KEEP THE FAITH AND BE FAITHFUL**  
**Faith is staying faithful until the end**  
**Last of the Faith that Shows Series**  
**James 5:7-20**

There is an inseparable bond between faith and faithfulness. Faith that shows is definitely faith that lasts. Faithfulness derives from having faith in God, that is why the one who truly believes chooses to hold steadfast to his belief in God. Furthermore, the ultimate test of faith is FAITHFULNESS. To be faithful is to endure until the end; to finish, with God's help, the race He set for us.

As he concludes his epistle, James reveals so much of his desire to strengthen suffering Christians weakened by so many challenges they face. Behind the sharp rebukes and strong admonitions is a shepherd's heart desiring that the people of God will continue in the faith. James knows that **FAITH IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET THROUGH LIFE; FAITH IS WHAT WILL HELP CHRISTIANS SURVIVE THE ORDEALS OF THE TIME.** Believing that faith in God can help them, James' writing implies the need for Christians to be faithful to the end.

Reflecting on the last portion of James' writing, let us learn several things we need to do to help us believers to be faithful.

**WHAT TO DO TO KEEP THE FAITH AND BE FAITHFUL**

**Be Patient (James 5:7-12)**

• **Be Patient and Wait**

- **Wait UNTIL the Lord's Coming.** "7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming."
- **Wait like a farmer waiting for the harvest.** "See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains."
- **Win with people while waiting.** "9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!"

- **Persevere, fully relying on the God's compassion and mercy.** 10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

- Keep your commitments. 12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

**Be Prayerful (James 5:13-18)**

- **Pray in all circumstances.** 13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.
- **Pray in faith.** 5 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.
- **Pray from a righteous heart** 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
- **Pray earnestly.** 17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

**Be Protective of others (James 5:19-20)**

- **Do not let anyone wander from the truth.** 19 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back,
- **Restore people back to faith.** 19 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back,
- **Save the brethren from destruction.** Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.
- **Cover over a multitude of sins.** Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

**Faith is not an internal thing, it always manifests itself outwardly. If faith shows then faith will last.**

**FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Reflect: There is an inseparable bond between faith and faithfulness. Faith that shows is definitely faith that lasts. Faithfulness derives from having faith in God, that is why the one who truly believes chooses to hold steadfast to his belief in God.
2. Reflect: the ultimate test of faith is FAITHFULNESS. To be faithful is to endure until the end; to finish, with God's help, the race He set for us.
3. Reflect: **FAITH IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET THROUGH LIFE; FAITH IS WHAT WILL HELP CHRISTIANS SURVIVE THE ORDEALS OF THE TIME.**
4. How do you think can we wait patiently for God? Can you identify with the farmer who waits patiently for the harvest? What often distracts you from waiting on God? How can these distractions be eliminated?
5. Why is keeping commitments an expression of being patient?
6. How would you describe your prayer life? How has your prayer helped you get through challenges? How has prayer helped you to be faithful?
7. Are you protective of others? Does it matter to you if other Christians are wandering away from God? What are you doing to protect other believers?
8. How has this series helped you in your walk with God?