

MY BIG ISSUE
James 5: 7-12

But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother. Galatians 1:19

But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, ... For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, Hebrews 10:32-34

(v.7) James' 2 word response to pain and suffering:

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, James 1:2

"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18

Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ... Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 1 Peter 4:1 & 12

The ultimate solution to pain and suffering will not be found

(v. 8)
You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. James 5:8 (NKJV)

In times of difficulty, avoid 2 things:

1. **Avoid** _____ **(v.9)**
2. **Avoid making** _____ **(v.12)**

And since you know that he cares, let your language show it. Don't add words like "I swear to God" to your own words. Don't show your impatience by concocting oaths to hurry up God. Just say yes or no. Just say what is true. That way, your language can't be used against you. James 5:12 (TMNT)

In times of difficulty, remember 3 things:

1. _____ **(v.10)**
Asa was so angry with the prophet for saying this that he threw him into jail 2 Chronicles 16:10

...and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated ³⁸ (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. Hebrews 11:36-38

2. _____ **(v.11)**
As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about.. James 5:11 (NIV)

3. _____ **(v.11)**
...we call happy those who are enduring; James 5:11 (YLT)
Indeed we count them blessed who endure James 5:11 (NKJV)

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ "But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." Daniel 3:17-18