



South Sub Church

March 1, 2026

Real Faith Endures

James 5:1-20 (ESV) [7-12 listed]

⁷ 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. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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.

Sermon Summary:

“Faith — IRL (In Real Life)” is an eight-week journey through the book of James, a letter that refuses to let faith remain theoretical, private, or passive. James insists that real faith shows up in the real world—shaping our responses, directing our actions, and transforming our relationships. In other words, genuine faith is always lived, never merely believed.

This series will challenge us and equip us to be doers of the Word, learning how a real, active faith navigates real-world trials, choices, relationships, and opportunities. Together, we will discover how faith lived in real life doesn’t just talk—but truly walks.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. What’s something you don’t mind waiting for—and something you really hate waiting for?
2. When you’re stressed, what’s a small thing that helps you calm down?
3. Are you more likely to vent to a friend or keep things to yourself?
4. What’s a simple habit that helps you get through a tough day?
5. Who’s someone (real or fictional) you admire for being patient or resilient?

Scripture Study Questions:

1. According to verses 1–3, what warnings does James give to the rich, and what evidence is mentioned against them?



FAITH IRL

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF JAMES



2. In verses 4–6, what specific actions of the rich does James condemn?
3. According to verses 7–8, what are believers instructed to do in light of the Lord's coming?
4. In verse 9, what warning does James give about grumbling, and what reason is given?
5. According to verses 10–11, which examples does James point to as models of suffering and patience?
6. In verse 12, what instruction does James give about oaths and speech?
7. According to verses 13–15, what responses are described for those who are suffering, cheerful, or sick?
8. In verse 16, what are believers instructed to do with their sins, and what is said about prayer?
9. According to verses 17–18, what example is given to show the effectiveness of prayer?
10. According to verses 19–20, what result is described when someone brings a wandering sinner back?

Interpretive Questions:

1. What is James's purpose in addressing the rich so strongly in verses 1–6, and who is likely meant to hear this warning?
2. How does the promise of the Lord's coming shape the call to patience in verses 7–8?
3. Why does James emphasize honest, straightforward speech in verse 12 in the context of suffering and waiting?
4. How does James present prayer as central to the life of the Christian community in verses 13–18?
5. What does James mean by saying that turning a sinner back saves them from death and covers a multitude of sins (vv. 19–20)?

Application Questions:

1. Where might comfort, success, or security be dulling your sensitivity to God?
2. In what ways does grumbling or quiet resentment show up in your relationships, and what might patience look like instead?
3. How central is prayer in your response to suffering, joy, or sickness - and what does that reveal about your dependence on God?
4. What keeps you from practicing honesty and vulnerability with other believers when you are struggling?
5. Whose faith might God be calling you to support, restore, or gently pursue rather than ignore?