November 12 & 15, 2026
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James | Faith That Works – Week 9
“The Guard Rails of Suffering”

James 5:7-12 (NIV)
*Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. **8** You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. **9** Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! **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. **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.*

1. **Expect suffering.**

John 16:33 (NIV)
“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

- Faith doesn’t keep us from suffering but it guides us through our suffering.

- Suffering is a given in life but patience is a true sign of spiritual life.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV)
*In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7** These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of*

greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

2. **Watch your wake.**

James 5:9 (NIV)
Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

- Grumbling, at its core, is dissatisfaction with the Sovereign plan of God.

3. **Look ahead.**

James 5:8-9 (NIV)
*You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. **9** Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!*

4. **Look behind.**

- We stand in a long line of those who have endured suffering.