# LG Leader

11/1 - James 5:7-12

## LOVE

**A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)**

- *Internal*: How was your week? Any new life updates? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Practically, is there any individual or family that needs encouragement from us as a group?

## TRUTH

**Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)**

**Understanding:**

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
   [Open Discussion]
2. Let's read our primary text. What does the word "therefore" in verse 7 connect back to, and why does that matter?
   It links James's call to patience directly to 5:1–6, where the rich oppress and defraud the poor. James is writing to believers who are on the receiving end of injustice. Having just announced God's coming judgment on the oppressors, he now turns to the oppressed and says, in effect, "Because God will set this right, you can wait without retaliating or despairing." Patience here is not passivity about injustice; it is trust that the Judge will act, which frees believers from taking vengeance into their own hands (Rom. 12:19).
3. What does the image of the farmer teach us about waiting well (v. 7)?
   A farmer cannot make the crop grow or the rain fall, yet he is not idle. He plows, plants, tends, and then waits for the "early and late rains" of the autumn planting and spring ripening seasons in Israel. His waiting is active, expectant, and grounded in confidence that harvest comes in its season. Likewise, believers keep faithfully doing the work God has given them while trusting Him for the outcome and the timing....waiting without wasting.
4. What does it mean to "establish your hearts" (v. 8)? How does a person do that?
   To establish the heart is to strengthen, steady, and fix it so that it is not tossed around by circumstances (compare the double-minded person in 1:6–8). It happens as we deliberately set our minds on things above, not on this earth, and remember our heavenly citizenship (and that we are a people of exile in this world). God is the one who ultimately establishes us (1 Thess. 3:13; 2 Thess. 2:16–17), but we cooperate by putting ourselves under the means He uses.
5. How do the prophets serve as an example of "suffering and patience" (v. 10)? [Jeremiah, Elijah, Isaiah, etc.]
   Men like Jeremiah, Elijah, and Isaiah spoke faithfully "in the name of the Lord" and were often rejected, mocked, imprisoned, or threatened for it. Their suffering came not from failure but from faithfulness. Yet they kept speaking and kept trusting God. Jesus Himself pointed to them as

encouragement to persecuted disciples (Matt. 5:11–12). Their example shows that suffering is not a sign God has abandoned us; it is often the road the faithful have always walked.

6. Why does James say "above all" about oaths in verse 12, and is he forbidding all oaths?
   James echoes Jesus' words in Matthew 5:33–37. In their culture people used elaborate oaths to make some statements binding and leave loopholes in others. Under pressure, people are especially tempted to make rash vows or manipulate with words. James calls for simple, consistent truthfulness: your yes should mean yes and your no should mean no. Most interpreters do not see this as banning solemn oaths in court or marriage vows (God Himself swears oaths, Heb. 6:13–18). Rather, it forbids the casual, evasive, or manipulative oath-taking that shows our ordinary words cannot be trusted.

**Application:**

7. In what area of life are you tempted to "force the harvest" instead of faithfully planting and trusting God's timing?
8. How would remembering that Christ's return is "at hand" change the way you spend this coming week?
9. Is there anywhere your "yes" has not meant yes lately? What steps will you take to ensure your word is trustworthy?
10. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

## GREAT COMMISSION

**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)**

- *Internal:* Did you make time to disciple your family this week? Pray with them?
- *External:* Is your life marked by joy/contentment? Are you prepared to share the gospel if the Holy Spirit prompted? Is the name of Jesus on your lips in your day-to-day activity?

## CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

**But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)**

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group (generally)? *[apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy]*
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

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Sources:
- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- GotQuestions.org
- Multiple AI Resources