

**Study Questions for the April 18, 2021 Sermon:
“Patience and Prayer: Dealing with Suffering”
James 5:7-20**

1. Early in the sermon, Pastor Paul raised the issue of dealing with someone who is causing us suffering.
 - a. How would the author of the book of James answer that question?
 - b. Give an example from Scripture of someone responding to persecution in a God-glorifying manner.
 - c. How would you reply to someone who said the Old and New Testament offered contradictory teachings on dealing with suffering, with the former encouraging revenge and the latter encouraging forgiveness?
2. Read James Chapter 5, verse 12.
 - a. Against what sin is James cautioning us when he forbids swearing and taking oaths?
 - b. Some Christians use this verse to support the doctrine that, when witnessing in court, they should not take oaths. Cite scripture to defend or reject that doctrine.
3. James 5:16 directs us to *confess your faults one to another*. If have a process in place for confession, such as talking to an accountability partner, or other activity in which you engage after sinning, please share it.
4. Read James 5: 19 & 20. Has anyone played that role in your life, as God's agent in pulling you back when you were straying from godly behavior?
5. Pastor Paul talked about doctrines having three levels of importance: Critical (Deity of Christ.), Intermediate (Baptism) and Lower (Timing of the Rapture.) In what activities can we engage with people with whom we differ on critical doctrines? Some examples, Group prayer after a tragedy? Attend weddings or funerals? Help repair their house of worship after vandalism?