

PREVAILING THROUGH HARDSHIP

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Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
PREVAILING THROUGH HARDSHIP
Bible Texts: James 5:13-15

Prayer

Father in the name of Jesus. Thank You Lord Jesus for Your presence in our midst tonight to bring us all the blessings in Your word to us, we pray that You baptize Your minister to the fullest tonight to teach us Your will and help us also to be doers of Your word, always applying it to every area of our lives. Thank You Father for answered prayers, in Jesus Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Introduction

In this life, hardship is a reality that touches both the saved and unsaved. As believers, our response to suffering must be rooted in prayer, trust in God, and a sincere examination of our hearts. This is why we must have a study such as this today.

Bible Text : James 5:13-15

[13]Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

[14]Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

[15]And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Study

There are many things that are common to all men in this world—both the born again and the unsaved. These things are tied to human nature and sometimes arise as natural occurrences. Apostle James made this truth known when he said,

Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. This shows us that Christians are not exempt from suffering. In fact, James was addressing believers, not unbelievers. This suffering can refer to hardship, affliction, or even maltreatment. God knows that we may face such things, and that is why He has provided a way out—prayer. Truly, when suffering reaches its peak, it becomes difficult to pray due to the limitations of our human nature. When the heart is unsettled, it becomes hard even to recall God’s Word, much less pray. The mind begins to wander. No one delights in suffering—that is simply the truth. However, we must understand that suffering is part of life. We do not know what tomorrow holds, only God does, and that is why He remains God—greater than all. Hardship can take many forms. Some major manifestations are:

1. Financial Hardship: This is one of the key weapons Satan uses against God’s children in these end times, aiming to distract and discourage them. Financial hardship can take the form of unemployment, business failure—especially when a once-thriving business suddenly collapses—or overwhelming debts. Some carry financial burdens too heavy to bear. Many are living in lifelong debt and cannot afford basic necessities, especially in regions like Africa. These are all signs of financial struggle. Yet, in **Philippians 4:19**, the Lord assures us that “**my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**” This means that when we put our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, He is sufficient to sustain us even in times of financial difficulty. This is why we must wield the weapon of prayer to change our situations for good.

2. Health Challenges: There are many Christians suffering from chronic illnesses. In fact, some cannot even share the details of what they are going through—they choose to keep it to themselves. Others are living with disabilities. Some are

surrounded by loved ones struggling with mental health issues, and this has become a heavy burden, as they are the ones responsible for their care. This often leads to intense hardship, which they find difficult to bear. If this describes you, I assure you that the Lord will come through for you in Jesus Christ's name. **Jeremiah 30:17** says, "For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord."

3. Emotional and Psychological Pain: Suffering can also manifest emotionally and psychologically. This includes grief, loneliness, and unresolved trauma. Many suffer from depression and anxiety as well. In all of these, we are commanded to pray, making Jesus our confidence and refuge. **Psalms 34:18** reminds us that "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

4. Family and Relationship Conflicts: Suffering also arises from conflicts within the family and in relationships. This can come in the form of marital breakdown. Some are divorced due to challenges they felt were beyond their ability to manage. Others are dealing with ongoing conflicts with their children, which have brought deep sorrow and suffering. There are siblings constantly at odds with each other, leading to division and heartache. God desires that we bring all these situations before Him in prayer.

5. Spiritual Battles: Many Christians face intense spiritual battles. These include doubts, spiritual dryness, and severe attacks from the enemy. It is ignorance that makes someone believe spiritual attacks are not real. Those who are experiencing such attacks know what they are going through. Even in these battles, many are struggling to maintain their faith and spiritual focus. Yet, we must never forget that the Lord is with us and will see us through.

6. Persecution for Faith: 2 Timothy 3:12 says, “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” This is another area of suffering that the children of God must understand and accept. Although many try to avoid it, we must recognize that persecution is one of the packages that comes with true Christianity. Opposition can arise from family members. It can also come from unexpected places—even within the church. Sometimes, those you call brethren may be the very ones persecuting you, and you begin to question yourself, wondering if you are the one in error. Yet, in many cases, you are not. Some are discriminated against in their workplaces and are denied their rights simply because they stand for Christ. Others face societal rejection, enduring mockery or isolation for holding fast to their faith.

Truly, there are many ways we suffer as children of God in this fallen world. This world is not our home. It has not been perfect since the fall of Adam, and we cannot expect it to favor those who belong to Christ. But take heart—Jesus knows every trial and every form of suffering we go through. Whether you are enduring the death of loved ones, discouragement, bondage to unholy habits, destructive behaviors, broken trust in friendships, conflicts at work, war, or unjust treatment in society, the Lord has made His counsel clear. He calls us to total trust and reliance on Him.

John 16:33 reminds us: “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” Have you taken what you are passing through to God in prayer? The more intense the challenges and suffering, the more we must increase the tempo of our prayers to God. For “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” This speaks of

praying earnestly, continually, and with heartfelt passion. Such prayers are dynamic and powerful in their effect—but only if we give ourselves to them. Though we may not see immediate visible results, these prayers are at work in the spiritual realm in ways we cannot perceive. That is why we must not give up. Truly, we might be going through difficult times, but we are in God's hands, and we will overcome. Our trials may differ, but there is no one on earth without some form of challenge. We all must understand this. Beyond praying for ourselves, let us also lift others up in prayer. As we do this, our collective testimonies will surely manifest. Therefore, this is not a time to relent. This is not a time to be discouraged. This is the time to lift our voices to the Lord and cry out to Him in whatever situation we are facing.

Truly, there are those who have prayed and prayed, yet it seems nothing is changing. You may feel like God is not answering your prayers. If that is the case, it is time to examine yourself. How are you praying? What is the motive behind your prayers? Are you living in sin? For sin closes the ears of the Lord and hinders prayers from reaching Him. Are we living righteously? If not, we must amend our ways so that our prayers will not be hindered. If you are still in conflict with your spouse—your wife or husband—and you are praying, know that the enemy may use that to hinder your prayers. You need to make things right.

Forgive those who have offended you so that God will also forgive you. In doing so, He will have mercy on you and answer your prayers. We must examine our hearts, and wherever things are not right, we must make them right—so that the enemy will not hinder our prayers. In all this, if the hardship persists, then you need to check for other possible hindrances to your prayers. One of such is neglecting the Word of God. **Proverbs 28:9** says, “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.” When you forsake the Word of God

and do not pray in alignment with the Scriptures, it can hinder your prayers and cause suffering or hardship to persist in your life. You also need to check your heart. Are you prideful? Are you relying on yourself instead of on God? Understand that pride blocks grace. **James 4:6** tells us, “**God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**” God is not pleased with the proud. He wants us to come humbly before Him in our affliction and hardship. We must not speak to Him in pride, as though we can solve our problems ourselves. Our total reliance must be on Him. Do not put your trust in other sources. There are many who trust in money, in people, in positions—but none of these can help in the day of trouble. Your trust must be in God alone. If your trust is elsewhere, your prayers can be hindered.

You must also check your motive. Why are you praying? **James 4:3** says that “**Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.**” Are you praying to satisfy your selfish desires? If so, you need to examine your heart carefully so that your prayers are not hindered. In all this, we must ensure that our total focus and reliance is on the Lord Jesus Christ. We must learn to adhere to Him, to trust Him, to believe in Him, and to rest completely in Him. When we do this, we will be delivered from every situation that seems overwhelming or difficult to bear. In Jesus name, amen.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp **+2347067511039** and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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