



# Resilience in suffering

Beginning with James chapter 5

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# JONI

AN  
UNFORGETTABLE  
STORY

JONI EARECKSON TADA  
FOREWORD BY BOB GOFF



## Warning to Rich Oppressors

**5** Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. **2** Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. **3** Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. **4** Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. **5** You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. **6** You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

## Patience in Suffering

**7** 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.

## James 5

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The background of the slide is a photograph of a garden path. On the right side, there is a stone wall with a climbing rose bush that has many bright red flowers. The path leads into the distance, flanked by trees and foliage. The overall scene is somewhat overcast.

## **Unhelpful – or just completely wrong – responses to suffering**

- 1. There is no God ... since “we live in a universe of blind pitiful indifference” (DAWKINS) ...  
Bad stuff happens, so get used to it**
- 2. Your suffering is because you have done something wrong (eg the DISCIPLES in John 9)**
- 3. You are suffering because your faith isn't strong enough ... HAVE MORE FAITH!!**



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1. Resilient people realise and accept that bad stuff happens – it’s part of the normal course of being human
2. Resilient people don’t ignore the negatives but find a way to tune into the good
3. Resilient people continually ask “is what I am doing helping me or harming me?”



“Christ in you – the hope of glory!”

Colossians 1