

Patience and Endurance

7 Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. **8** You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. **9** Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door! **10** For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.

The Power of Prayer

13 Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. **14** Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. **16** Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. **17** Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! **18** Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.

Restore Wandering Believers

19 My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, **20** you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

Questions:

1. How would you live if you knew the coming of the Lord was near?
2. What have you learned from a hard time or suffering?
3. Name the different reasons to pray in verses 13-14.
4. What do you need to pray about today?
5. Do you know someone who has wandered away from the truth of God's Word?

Describe how you could help bring them back.

Pray for this person and other needs right now.