

The Only Way to Fly

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I. Introduction.

- A. There are things in all of our lives that need to be pruned to keep us fruitful.
- B. Pray to God to reveal the one thing he wants you to work on this week.
- C. When you experience a test, choose to rejoice.
- D. Strengthening of faith comes through prayer.
- E. James teaches principles of prayer illustrated through Elijah. (Genesis 5:24, 2 Kings 2:11)

II. Persistence. (James 1:5-8)

- A. The double minded man will not excel. (James 4:8)
- B. The only way to deal with double mindedness is to confess and forsake sin.
- C. Elijah illustrates that it is always too soon to quit. (1 Kings 18:42-44)

III. Perspective. (James 1:16)

- A. Satan seeks to ambush us. He is capable of deception.
- B. We are called to be diligent and sober.
- C. Every good gift is from above, but we need to redefine what we perceive to be good. (John 3:27)
- D. God will finish the good work he began in you. (Philippians 1:6, Hebrews 1:12)
- E. Elijah regained lost perspective. (1 Kings 19)
- F. Fatigue produces irrational behavior. (1 Kings 8:20, Luke 5:15-17)
- G. The only way to regain perspective is to hear God's still small voice.

IV. Patience. (James 5:13-18)

- A. Jesus likely prayed a great deal before his ministry ever began.
- B. Be careful of false guilt.
- C. The authenticity of patience.
 - 1. Honest, interpersonal relationships. (1 Peter 3)
 - 2. The promises of god.

D. Our prayer life is based on the promises of God. (1 Kings 17-18, Deuteronomy 11:16-19)

1. We believe the promises.
2. We hide them in our hearts.
3. We pass them on to our families.

Application questions:

1. Who is a personal model for you of persistence? What makes this person persistent?

2. Why is it important to see the good at work even in terrible circumstances?

3. How does one's prayer life reflect their patience? What can you do to maximize the time you need in prayer? Explain.
