



#WINNING
A Christian That Wins



A Christian With God's Power

MAIN THING

A Christian with God's Presence is a Christian with God's Power

SCRIPTURE

James 5

ICEBREAKER

Over the last decade, superhero movies have taken over Hollywood. Growing up, who was your favorite superhero? What was their super power?

OPENING THOUGHT

God grants us His power and authority and expects us to use it in ways that honor Him. Judgment is in store for those who use God's power and authority for their own gain. We are stewards of His power and authority: we aren't to use it to glorify ourselves or enrich ourselves. When we realize that we are still under authority when He grants it, He produces fruit through us. He grants us power to heal. He grants us power in prayer. He grants us power to bring people back to the truth. A Christian with God's power is a powerful person indeed. He or she will produce a great deal of fruit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. In the first six verses, we see a serious warning to the wealthy. What may he be talking about when he mentions, "the misery" coming on them? What has their life's work boiled down to? Where did they find their power? Are there people living like this today?
3. Patience is one of the most difficult things to have today. We are so used to everything being at our disposal immediately. We have microwaves and drive-thru lanes that get us immediate food, high speed internet that gets us information immediately, and cars that make, what used to be a day's trip, into mere minutes or hours. What does James say about patience in verses 7-11? What examples does he use? Why is patience so important?

LIFE APPLICATION

Perseverance is a very difficult thing. Whether it's through addiction, weight loss, or finishing up schooling, perseverance is something that every Christian needs to practice. James talks about Job and all he went through. Regardless of how hard it got, Job never gave up on God. Have you found yourself in a place where you wanted to give up? Where you doubted your faith? Have you ever just asked God why? Maybe that's the wrong question. Maybe we just simply need to ask, "Father, how can I serve your right now?" In the big picture, our current sufferings and struggles are blips on the screen. When we realize that, it makes perseverance much more possible. Be patient, hold fast, and continue.

CHALLENGE

One of the best parts about being in a community group is ending the evening with prayer. The strongest community groups are the groups that are intentional about their prayer time. Be as involved, if not more involved, in the group prayer time than you are in the discussion. This is a time to connect with God. Read verse 16. This explains perfectly why we need this time each week with our groups. When we are praying for each other, there is power, and those prayers are effective. Never neglect praying for each other, and continue to throughout the week.