

JAMES (5:7-11)

Lesson 24: Patience During Difficult Times

26 June 2020

A LESSON IN PATIENCE:

VS 7 You can't trust riches to get you eternal benefits (vss 1-6). Therefore, patience is necessary—as you wait for the Lord's return.

Exhibit A: The farmer.

- He is completely dependent upon the Lord to provide the “precious fruit of the earth.”
 - He can't do anything to speed up the process of growing crops.
 - God controls the elements needed for plant growth (Sun, rain, proper climate, etc.)
 - God designed the time it takes for a seed to germinate and then become a mature plant.
 - We can plant and water, but God gives the increase (1 Cor 3:6).
 - This applies also to witnessing. Plant the good word, water with tearful prayer, follow-up, but trust God to do His part or you'll be harvesting green fruit.
 - In the context, it requires patience as we wait for the Lord's return. We can't do anything to make Him return sooner than He intends.
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VS 8 Since we live in a world full of oppressors and the just do not resist them (vs 6), we will need to stand fast on the things of God and not become disheartened by this evil world (Eph 6:11-12). That requires patience.

- It is not our commission to fix the world to bring in the kingdom. That is false doctrine.
 - We need to fix our heart and mind firmly on God's truth and stand fast until he comes.
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VS 9 The Lord cautions us to be patient with the brethren. When facing difficult times, we are often tempted to be short-tempered and bitter against the very ones who try to help and comfort us.

- Reminder: the word “*condemned*” in this verse does not mean “*damned to Hell*.” It means to be found guilty.

VS 10 Exhibit B: The prophets. The prophets spoke for the Lord and often suffered for it. That didn't mean that they had offended the Lord. Someone may try to convince you that your troubles are the result of being out of the will of God. That is when patience is needed.

- Examine yourself to rule out the possibility that you're in the wrong (1 Cor 11:28, 31, Ps 26:2, 139:23-24, Heb 12:6-8).
- If you rule out sin, try to determine if it's the Devil (Lk 4:2), or a trial given to strengthen you (James 1:12), or just the consequences of trying to live right in a cursed world (Jn 15:19, 16:33, 2 Tim 3:12, Acts 14:22).
- “**Take...the prophets:**” i.e. Micaiah (1 Kings 22:24), Jeremiah (Jer 37:15-21), Daniel (Dan 6:16).

VS 11 How can we be happy about enduring troubles? Because there are rewards for those whose confidence is in the Lord during those times (Heb 10:35, 2 Jn 8, Col 3:23-24, Lk 6:22-23, Job 42:10).

“PATIENCE” VERSES:

- 2 Corinthians 6:1-3** There are many things we need if we’re going to minister to other people without offending them, but the first thing on God’s list is patience (vs. 3). If you don’t demonstrate patience nobody will believe you’re God’s minister. They won’t listen.
- 2 Corinthians 12:12** Paul lists patience first, more important than signs, wonders, and mighty deeds.
- Colossians 1:9-11** If you want to walk worthy of the Lord, please the Lord, be filled with knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual understanding, it will take time—resulting in patience (vs 11). The “might” and the “power” to become patient comes from the Lord, not the flesh (James 4:1-5). The spirit in us lusts to envy. It does not produce patience.
- 1 Timothy 3:2-3** Patience is a qualification for spiritual leadership in the Church. Other types of Christian service can be done in the meantime until patience is learned (compare with **1 Tim 3:8-9**).
- Revelation 1:9** Just as the believer desires greatly to leave this wicked world and go to be with the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord greatly desires to put down the wickedness and rid the world of sickness, sorrow, pain, and death. That’s the patience of Jesus Christ.
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FOUR REASONS WE NEED PATIENCE

1. To wait for the rapture (**Romans 8:24-25**).
 2. To wait to inherit the things which God has promised us (**Hebrews 6:11-12**).
 3. To wait to be rewarded for service (**Hebrews 10:35-36**). Rewards don’t always immediately follow faithful service. You may have to wait a long time.
 4. To be able to run the (long-distance) Christian race that is before us (**Hebrews 12:1**).
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FOUR WAYS TO WE GET PATIENCE

1. Through the Lord strengthening us (Colossians 1:9-11).
 2. Through tribulation (**Romans 5:3-4**). The difficult experience helps build confidence in the Lord. The next time you enter a similar circumstance, you are able to patiently endure it while trusting the Lord.
 3. By drawing upon the holy scriptures for strength and guidance during troubles (**Romans 15:4-5**). The Bible really comes to life when you read it during the hard times. That’s when you’ll learn to lean on God and fully trust Him.
 4. Through the trying of our faith (letting patience have her perfect work) (**James 1:2-4**).
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