

# “Patient Till Christ Comes”

## James 5:7-11

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### I. Introduction

- A. In this text, James is addressing suffering saints
1. He is exhorting them to “be patient therefore brethren” (v. 7)
  2. Five times he used the word “patient” or “patience”
    - a) Who is to be patient?
      - 1) “Brethren” (v. 7)
    - b) What does it mean to be patient?
      - 1) We don’t like to wait
      - 2) Illustration- People who honk when the light turns green
    - c) The word “patient” comes from two Greek words: “makros” (long) and “thumos” (temper)
      - 1) It means “long suffering”
      - 2) It’s the quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation. It is bearing insult and injury without retaliation
      - 3) It is keeping your car in neutral when you want to grind the gears
      - 4) “Let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (James 1:4)
      - 5) Jerry Bridges explains how this concept works in everyday life: “This aspect of patience is the ability to suffer a long time under the mistreatment of others without growing resentful or bitter. The occasions for exercising this quality are numerous; they vary from malicious wrongs all the way to seemingly innocent practical jokes. They include ridicule, scorn, insults, and undeserved rebukes, as well as outright persecution. The Christian who is the victim of office politics or organizational power plays must react with long-suffering. The believing husband or wife who is rejected or mistreated by an unbelieving spouse needs this kind of patience.”
  3. God is long-suffering
    - a) (Exodus 34:6)
    - b) (1 Peter 3:20)
    - c) It is the fruit of the Spirit
      - 1) (Galatians 5:22)
    - d) “Love suffers long and is kind” (1 Corinthians 13)
  4. How long must we be patient in our suffering and mistreatment?
    - a) “...unto the coming of the Lord” (v. 7)
    - b) “For the coming of the Lord draws near” (v. 8)
    - c) “The judge standeth before the door” (v. 9)
    - d) Which coming? The Rapture or Second Coming?
      - 1) The Second Coming
      - 2) (2 Thessalonians 1:6-8)

- e) If you suffer because of the treatment of wicked people, be patient. Jesus is coming. He will vindicate you and judge the wicked.
- 5. How can I be patient until Christ comes?
  - a) James gives us three encouraging examples of patient endurance
    - 1) The farmer
    - 2) The prophets
    - 3) The man, Job

## II. The Farmer (James 5:7-9)

- A. If you are impatient, you had better not be a farmer
  - 1. “The farmer waiteth” (v. 7)
    - a) Has long patience
    - b) Illustration- My garden
    - c) A farmer must have patience and faith
- B. Why are farmers willing to wait?
  - 1. Because the fruit is precious
    - a) “...waiteth for the precious fruit” (v. 7)
  - 2. Because the harvest is a process
    - a) “...the early and latter rain” (v. 7)
    - b) They must trust in God’s providence
    - c) God wants to produce a harvest of precious fruit in our lives
    - d) We must be patient with God’s process
      - 1) Our hearts- the soil
      - 2) The seed- God’s Word
      - 3) The seasons to grow
      - 4) The rain and sin
      - 5) The vine and the branches (John 15)
        - a. The process may be painful, but it will bring a beautiful harvest
    - e) “Establish your heart” (v. 8)
      - 1) “Establish” suggests the mustering up of courage. To strengthen your inner being
      - 2) Be stouthearted
      - 3) It is a firmness of faith
      - 4) “For the coming of the Lord draws near” (v. 8)
    - f) “As you are waiting, stop your complaining” (v. 9)
      - 1) “Grudge” is “to sigh” or “groan”
      - 2) Don’t groan about other Christians
      - 3) “The judge is at the door” (v. 9)
    - g) Like the farmer, be patient and keep working
      - 1) “The soul would have no rainbow if the eye had no tears” – Samuel Rutherford

## III. The Prophets (James 5:10)

- A. James doesn’t tell us which prophets
  - 1. Isaiah (was sawed in two?)

2. Daniel (thrown in the lion's den)
  3. All of them "had spoken in the name of the Lord" (v. 10)
    - a) Anyone who speaks for God will be persecuted
  4. Jeremiah (the weeping prophet)
    - a) The darkest days in Judah
      - 1) 40 years with no converts
    - b) He was rejected
    - c) Through it all, he was patient
    - d) (Matthew 5)
- B. What encouragement can we receive from the example of the prophets?
1. They were doing God's will, and yet they suffered
    - a) "...an example of suffering affliction" (v. 10)
    - b) "They spoke in the name of the Lord" (v. 10)
      - 1) Illustration- The disciples on the sea in the storm
  2. God cared for them in their suffering
    - a) Illustration- Elijah- fed by ravens; water from the brook
    - b) The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you
  3. They patiently kept witnessing for God
    - a) So should we!

#### IV. Job (James 5:11)

- A. In verse 11, we have a different Greek word for "patience"
1. In verses 7-10, it means "long-suffering with people"
  2. Now in verse 11, it means "endurance" or "perseverance in circumstances"
    - a) It means you stay put and stand fast when you would like to run away
      1. Illustration- In your marriage
- B. Job's patience
1. Job was a righteous man
  2. Job was a rich man
  3. God was praising Job before Satan
  4. Satan's attack on God
  5. God says, "go ahead," and sets the limits
  6. In one day, Job lost his family and possessions
  7. He lost his health
  8. All he had was his wife and three friends
  9. But Job patiently endured
    - a) "Naked I came..."
  10. Job wasn't perfect, but he was patient. He kept his faith and trust in God
    - a) How about you?
- C. Lessons from Job
1. Job was righteous, yet he suffered
  2. Job didn't know why he was suffering, but God had a purpose
  3. Job trusted and kept loving God even though he didn't understand
  4. God blessed Job at the end of his life
    - a) (Job 42)
  5. He experienced God

- a) “Compassion” (v. 11)
  - b) “Tender mercy” (v. 11)
  - c) You may be in the dark, but God is never at a distance
  - d) Job said, “I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth thee”
6. Job glorified God

## **V. Conclusion**

- A. Be patient, Jesus is coming
  - 1. Like the farmer, keep working and wait for the precious harvest
  - 2. Like the prophets, keep witnessing
  - 3. Like Job, keep waiting and trusting in God’s compassion and mercy
- B. Jesus will come and set all things right
  - 1. (Romans 8:18)