

FAITH AND PATIENCE

JAMES 5:7-11

SERMON POINTS

- Patience and Christ's return
- An example of patience
- The example of patience

MAIN IDEA: To be patient is to be at peace with the reality that I am not in control and I am not God, but God is God and he is in control.

QUESTIONS

Q: It would seem that we live with a great irony that our technology and the ability to get information and stuff much faster than we ever could before, has made us less patient not more. Why do you think that is? Can you think of examples of how technology and culture is shaping us into being less patient?

Q: Healthy relationships require patience. What are some ways you could grow in patience in your relationships?

Q: James seeks to motivate our hearts to be patient by appealing to the reality of Christ's second coming. How can that serve as a heart motivation?

P: One of James' main themes is for us to remain steadfast in trials and difficulty, believing that God uses them to make us more spiritually mature.

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, [3] for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. [4] And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Q: How do faith and hope help us to patiently endure suffering and trial? What happens to people who lose hope and faith?

Q: James points to the example of Job as someone who had steadfastness and patience in suffering. Who is the greatest example of steadfastness and patience for you?

OTHER PASSAGES

Psalm 37:7

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

Ecclesiastes 7:8

Better is the end of a thing than its beginning,
and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

Romans 12:12

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

2 Peter 3:8–9

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. [9] The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.