

TODAY'S VERSES:

James 5:7-11
Job 1:21
Psalm 77
Matthew 27:46

**THIS WEEK, I CAN APPLY THIS LESSON
TO MY LIFE IN THESE WAYS:**

MY NOTES:

JAMES

A FAITH THAT WORKS

PART SIXTEEN: JAMES 5:7-12
SUFFERING AND HOPE



JAMES

A FAITH THAT WORKS

PART SIXTEEN: JAMES 5:7-12 SUFFERING AND HOPE

Patience is one of the fruits that the Holy Spirit brings when we are filled by and led by God. Today our whole society is built around not being patient, yet James says it is vital in the life of those who follow Jesus. Patience enables us to stand with God in situations we do not understand.

One writer says, *"Patience is to unflinchingly live the way you should live, do the things you should do, and be the person you know you should be...to not give up."* Being impatient many times will lead to us making some tragic mistakes at a practical level. Every day (every hour), we will meet frustrating and infuriating people and circumstances, patience informs how we will respond to those situations. We can either:

Trust God - His timing, His schedule, His wisdom.

-OR-

Trust ourselves and our own wisdom. Our assessments, our schedule, our timing, and what we think should happen.

Trusting God in the midst of hard times means we remind ourselves that God is good, and He is trustworthy. Elisabeth Elliot once wrote that if we don't learn to trust God in the hardest places, we will never find any rest in our lives.

We develop and grow in patience in the present by looking to the past and the future.

- **The past teaches us to look to the Cross, the Gospel.** James says Job was blessed because the Lord Himself was full of mercy. Job is forgiven for his impatience for the same reason we are: Jesus went to the cross, died for our sins, and took the punishment we deserve.
- **The future teaches us to think about what He is going to do.** This comes out of the Gospel as well, what Jesus did in the past but also in what He's going to do in the future. He's coming again.

Be patient, the Lord is coming. God tells us the end so we can handle the turmoil of the middle, the present. Life in this world can be difficult, but in the end justice will be done and God will make all things new.

Read James 5:7-12.

- What is patience?
- Do you tend to think of patience more as a personality trait or as a fruit of the Spirit?
- What does it mean that patience is available to all of us?
- What is grumbling?
- What does impatience reveal about your heart or your attitude toward God?
- How is impatience a form of giving up on another person?
- When was a time you were not patient and it led to broken relationship with someone?
- In what areas do you find yourself grumbling (against people or situations)?
- Why is it important to learn to forgive and be gracious with others?
- How has your heart deceived you?
- How has it led to self-pity and anger?
- How can we develop patience by looking to the past and future?
- Do you want to develop patience?
- What is our present hope?
- What is our future hope?
- Do you believe Jesus is worth trusting?