

Maintain Patient Faithfulness

#16 in series “Doing What We Believe”

(A Study in the Book of James)

James 5:7-12

1. A Call for Patience :7-8, 10-11

⁷ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. ⁸ You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

¹⁰ As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful.

A clear command to be patient :7a

Therefore be patient, brethren, ...

John Calvin – “I have not so great a struggle with my vices, great and numerous as they are, as I have with my impatience. My efforts are not absolutely useless; yet I have never been able to conquer this ferocious wild beast.”

1 Pet. 1:15 (NASB) “but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior”

Phil. 2:13 (NASB) “for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

1 Thess. 5:23-24 (NASB)

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

Illustrations of patience

- Farmers :7b

- **The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it (Or *he*) gets the early and late rains.**

- **(Deut. 11:8-15)**

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- Prophets and Job :10-11

¹⁰ As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful. (Jer. 20:2, 38:26, 1 Sam. 18:5, 26:3-5, 1 Kings 18:17, Dan. 6, Matt. 5:12, Matt. 23:31)

The motivation for patience

7a... until the coming of the Lord

8c... for the coming of the Lord is near.

The means to patience

⁸ You too be patient; strengthen your hearts,

Luke 9:51 (NASB)

⁵¹ When the days were approaching for His ^[a]ascension, He ^[b]was determined to go to Jerusalem;

2. A Call to be Guarded :9

⁹ Do not complain (Lit *groan*), brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

(Jam. 4:11-12, Num. 14:2, 11, 22-29)

3. A Call to Honesty :12

¹² But above all (preeminently), my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no (Lit *yours is to be yes, yes, and no, no*), so that you may not fall under judgment.

Matthew 5:34-37 (NASB)

³⁴ But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.

Eph. 4:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ.