

The Value Of Patience

- *James 5:7-11*

1. Riches will vanish

a. *Brings happiness.*

- i. Some people think that money brings happiness. It doesn't. It can buy almost anything but happiness. Take you almost anywhere but Heaven.

b. *Brings security.*

- i. Other people think money brings security. It doesn't.

c. *Is sinful.*

- i. Other people think that money is sinful. It isn't. It is a necessary means of exchange.
- ii. The Bible doesn't say that money is the root of all evil contrary to popular opinion. "*For the love of money is the root of all evil...*" ([1 Timothy 6:10](#)). There are a lot of deceptions about money. There are a lot of disagreements about money and you can get criticized more over money matters than almost anything else.

2. Riches Can Destroy Character

- a. Now, I want to tell you that a man's character and a man's religion and a man's spirituality may be measured by his attitude toward money more than anything else.
- b. What you give is never lost.

3. Judgment is Certain

- a. Somebody once said that, "Stewardship is that area of life that tells how men make money and how God makes men."

➤ **READ SCRIPTURE**

➤ **James was still addressing the suffering saints when he wrote, "Be patient." This was his counsel at the beginning of his letter, and his counsel as his letter came to a close.**

- God is not going to right all the wrongs in this world until Jesus Christ returns, and we believers must patiently endure—and expect.
 - "In the world ye shall have tribulation" (John 16:33).
 - Paul reminded his converts that "we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).
 - We must patiently endure hardships and heartaches until Jesus returns.

➤ **James used two different words for patience. In James 5:7-8, 10 it was the word "long-tempered." The words "endure" and "patience" in James 5:11 literally mean "to remain under" and speak of endurance under great stress.**

- Here is a practical definition of patience: to stay put and stand fast when you'd like to run away.

➤ **But the question we must answer is: How can we as Christians experience this kind of patient endurance as we wait for the Lord to return? James points us to 3 examples of how to endure & faithfully learn to be patient.**

1. Patience In Spiritual Harvest (vv.7-8)

- Here in this passage, James pictures the Christian as a "spiritual farmer" in anticipation for a spiritual harvest.
- In our spiritual walk, "the harvest" is worth waiting on b/c the fruit is precious, AMEN?
 - a. Patiently Anticipate The Lord's Return

- i. What I believe James is talking about here is to be in a frame of mind of knowing that He is returning & it could be any day.
- ii. Let me say this, just b/c Christ has not returned yet doesn't dampen my faith one bit.
 - 1. We know He is returning b/c He has made us that promise.
 - a. [John 14:3](#) - And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also.
 - b. [Acts 1:11](#) - Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.
 - c. [2 Peter 3:10](#) - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
 - d. [1 Thessalonians 4:16](#) - For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
 - e. [2 Timothy 4:8](#) - Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.
 - 2. So Christian, don't get weary in waiting for our Lord's return. Don't be impatient & become dissatisfied b/c He has not return yet. Instead may God help us to ...

b. Be Faithful in Waiting for His Return

- i. To be patient regarding the return of Christ is to be faithful as a Christian in the waiting period.
 - 1. [Titus 2:13](#) - Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
- ii. I believe we were left here for a reason. We have a purpose while we are waiting for our Lord's Return.
 - 1. Worship Him
 - 2. Win others to Christ.
 - 3. To encourage one another in the faith.

2. Patience With People (v.9)

- **Another area in which patience is needed is in the matter of aggravation from people. Lack of patience can result in unholy reactions against those who aggravate us. Such unholy reactions are condemned and will be dealt with by "the judge".**
 - o From a spiritual standpoint, patience with ourselves & others is an extremely difficult thing to keep in front of our eyes b/c we always envision an immediate & quick response to spiritual matters, but it doesn't always happen.
- **Patient In God's Working:**
 - a. **In Our Lives**
 - i. Do you know who I get frustrated with more often than anyone else? Myself.

1. Romans 7:15 – “For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.”
 - ii. If we are not careful, even as Christians we get so frustrated with ourselves & maybe even the situations around us that we become impatient & we give up.
 - iii. Christian, if that’s you tonight, be patient with yourself.
 1. I’m not saying don’t strive to get better.
 2. I’m not saying make excuses when you fall.
 3. I am saying we all need to realize that we will only be perfect when Christ calls us home & then it will only be b/c of Him, it will have nothing to do with us.
- b. In the Lives of Others**
- i. Unsaved
 1. Listen, if there is a group of people we need to be patient with, it is the unsaved.
 2. We can’t expect them to do the right things b/c they are not living for Christ.
 - a. The actions of the world are not quite as shocking as we grow in Christ b/c we understand the power that sin has & its devastating effects.
 3. If I’m not careful in my own life, I will become frustrated with those that are unsaved, even those that I am witnessing to & I will “lose hope” so to speak & become impatient with them & that does nothing but turn them off.
 - ii. Saved
 1. While we need to make an effort to be patient with the unsaved, we need not forget about our brothers & sisters in the Lord.
 2. I will say that none of us are where we could be in our relationship with God. We all have room to grow & things to work out in our faith.
 3. Don’t get so upset when others don’t meet your expectations, just take that opportunity instead to breathe a word of prayer for them & for you.

3. Patience In Pain (vv.10-11)

a. The Pain of Persecution (v.10)

- i. “Preacher, how can I be patient when I am being persecuted in my life & when things don’t go the way I planned?” Be patient.
 1. When Moses was leading the children of Israel through the wilderness, was He doing what God called him to do? Yes he was. We could say that he was in God’s will.
 - a. Yet even in God’s will, he suffered disappointment, discouragement, life was difficult, and he had to put up with a bunch of whinny people for 40 years.
 2. What about the prophets, did they have an easy life? Was their ministry always pleasant? For many of them, they lived in fear of their life daily, yet they walked in the will of God.
 - a. Elijah announced to King Ahab that there would be a drought in the land for three and one half years; and Elijah himself had to suffer in that drought. But God cared for him. It has been said, "The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you."
 - b. Jeremiah was arrested as a traitor and even thrown into an abandoned well to die. God fed Jeremiah and protected him throughout that

terrible siege of Jerusalem, even though at times it looked as though the prophet was going to be killed.

- c. Both Ezekiel and Daniel had their share of hardships, but the Lord delivered them. And even those who were not delivered, who died for the faith, received that special reward for those who are true to Him.

b. The Pain of Problems (v.11)

- i. Why is it that those who "speak in the name of the Lord" often must endure difficult trials? It is so that their lives might back up their messages.
- ii. The impact of a faithful, godly life carries much power. We need to remind ourselves that our patience in times of suffering is a testimony to others around us.
- iii. Job had many problems but was patient in them all. This is especially seen in Job's reactions to his problems in the early chapters of Job. In the end, God's mercy rewarded Job's patience.

c. The Pain of "Why?"

- i. It is one thing to persevere & to go through something & the relief & even joy that comes into our life when we have endured. But you can't persevere without trials.
- ii. Not only was Job in pain from his problems but he also experienced a painful question as to why he was suffering so much.
 1. Job did not understand this battles that was going on between God & Satan.
 2. When Job cried out for answers to his questions, there was no reply from Heaven. But that did not mean God di not love Job, nor does it mean He does not love us.
- iii. Job was a righteous man, *and yet he suffered*. God found no evil in him, and even Satan could not find any. Job's friends could not prove their accusations. Job teaches us that God has higher purposes in suffering than the punishing of sin. Job's experience paved the way for Jesus, the perfect Son of God who suffered, not for His own sins, but for the sins of the world.
- iv. When such questions burdens us, we need patience to trust the Lord even when we do not understand why He is doing what He is doing. We must have faith in His wisdom that He will always do what is right and remember God's promise to Paul.
 1. II Corinthians 12:7-9 – "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."