

Lesson Five: Patience – The Benefits of Waiting

(read James 5:7-11)

1. What specific elements of patience do you glean from this passage?
2. James tells his readers to “be patient... until the Lord’s coming” (v. 7). How does this speak to both the duration and the ultimate remedy of Christian suffering?
3. James offers three examples of patience in this passage: farmers, the prophets, and Job. What can we learn from farmers about patience? How does the farmer’s example apply to the Lord’s coming in verse 8?
4. Why might impatience cause us to “grumble against one another” (v. 9)?
5. How can our realization that the day of judgement is imminent (“the judge is standing at the door”) provide the antidote to our grumbling?
6. James’s second example is the prophets (v.10). Read and reflect on Hebrews 11. How do these people of faith demonstrate patience, perseverance, and hope?
7. The author of Hebrews includes the prophets when he says; “They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated... These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised” (Hebrews 11:37, 39). What does the prophets’ example show us about living our godly patience?
8. What does James mean when he says, “As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered” (v.11)?
9. James’s final example of patience and perseverance is Job. Based on what you know about the book of Job, why is he a good example for us today?

(Summary)

10. How does patience help us exhibit the other aspects of the fruit of the Spirit we have studied thusfar (love, joy, peace)?

