

PRESSURE POINTS: Do You Struggle with Patience?

Andy Deane · 11/03/2024 · James 5:7-12

James 5:7-8, 7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

Patience sees the bigger picture

- Patience makes no sense without eternity (otherwise, just do everything right now).
- Patience will still be needed after this trial (for the next one, and the next one).
- It's all settled in eternity (rewards): [2 Corinthians 4:17-18](#)
- It's all settled in eternity (justice): sometimes God delays judgment

Patience knows the wait is worthwhile

- Waiting isn't in vain. Good stuff is happening: [2 Peter 3:9](#)
- Farmers don't give up cause harvest distant: we must do our part.
- Waiting is not just about what we'll get at the end. It's about what we'll become: [Isaiah 40:31](#) & [Galatians 5:22-23](#)
- We can rejoice because we know God is working behind the scenes: [Romans 5:3](#)

James 5:9, 9 Don't grumble against one another...or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Patience stumbles when our attitude grumbles

- With pressure we're irritable and for some reason we often take it out on those closest to us.
- All grumbling is ultimately grumbling against God. It's actually theological & reveals dissatisfaction with God.
- Expressing gratitude lessens our grumbling.

James 5:10-11a, 10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about...

Patience needs good role models

- Prophets taught & waited & did not see it: [Mt. 13:16-17](#) — Jeremiah, Elijah, and Hosea were all treated unfairly.
- Job's waiting for God's help was good, but still messy. He reminds us of how great God's grace is toward us.
- [Job 42:1-6](#) shows Job's heart change. It's not just that God restored his wealth, he refined Job's character.
- What about modern examples of good role models? I recommend reading *Christian Heroes: Then & Now*.

James 5:11b, ...The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Patience is strengthened as we reflect on God

- Remember who God is: God is love, God is light, God is wisdom, & God is good!
- Lamentations 3:22-23
- God the Father is best known through the life and words of Jesus: [John 14:9](#)

James 5:12, 12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

Patience reveals our level of integrity

- James echoed the teaching of Jesus: [Matthew 5:34-37](#)
- The need for oaths betray our reputation. This a challenge for integrity: Whatever the hardship.No matter how heavy the burden. Despite the grief I bear. By God's grace I will be a trustworthy person of character.

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