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James - Faith That Works

Perfected in Patience

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James 5:7-12

Patience Must Be Prolonged

Matt 16:27 Acts 1:11

Patience Is Persistent

Heb 6:15

Patience Allows for Perfecting

Gal 6:9

Share a story when you had to exhibit patience. How did it go for you?

Share an area where your patience wears thin very quickly.

In what situations are you least patient?

In what situations do you think you are most patient?

What are the main differences in situations when you are and are not patient?

What does it mean to be patient? James uses the illustration of the farmer to indicate that patience is connected to waiting. The farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth and in this waiting he is patient, until it receives the early and late rain. The farmer is waiting, knowing that it is coming. It may seem if he only looks at the time passing or considers the dreariness of more rain, that this fruit may never come at all. What is the farmer waiting on? More rain? More sunshine? No. The farmer is waiting for fruit.

How can waiting on the Lord's return help us have patience in everyday life?

Read Ecclesiastes 7:8

What is the difference between patience and pride? How does pride negate patience?

Being patient James goes on to say, involves establishing our hearts. Being patient is an action of faith, it is something we can be when there is nothing to be anxious about. We choose to trust that God is a generous giver and the source of all good gifts. We choose to count the fact that God is not tempting us in the midst of our trials.

Read Gal 5:22 ;Eph 4:2 ;Col 3:12

Paul seems to say that patience should be a primary characteristic of a Christian.

Why is patience so important in our lives as believers?

What does patience really have to do with our walk of faith?

James illustrates the point that being patient is an act of faith in verse 10, when he turns our attention to the prophets who are examples of suffering and patience.

Read Hebrews 11:1 - 16

How is patience tied to faith? What part does it play?

Can we negate something we have faith for by lack of patience?

It appears that according to James, the tell tale sign of a lack of patience is grumbling. Have you seen this to be the case in your own life?

Why do we grumble? What does grumbling accomplish?

Read 1 Tim 4:2 and 2 Peter 3:9

People get in the way of our patience. According to this passage of scripture how are we to handle those who don't live like we want them to live?

Do you think that God has reason to be impatient with humanity/ with you?

We can count on God to be patient with us. How would you characterize God's patience?

In what ways should we possess the same patience as God? What should it look like?

James is adamant that believers be people of patience.

Are we as convinced that patience is important? Why or why not?

What are ways that we can work on patience in our lives?