

JAMES: FINDING A FAITH THAT WORKS

Lesson 11 - FAITH ENDURES AND IS PATIENT - James 5:7-12

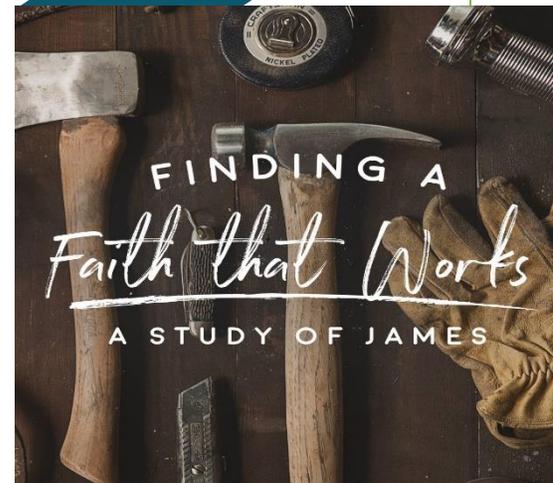
INTRODUCTION/THOUGHTS

- We live in the fastest changing society in the history of mankind. This contributes to the fact that we are naturally not patient people. Examples: Communication, Travel, Money, Food, Production, Medicine, _____
- Illustration: Small-Pox - has been traced back thousands of years. The first outbreaks were documented in the 1520's. Inoculations do not appear in a wide-spread area until the 1570's. Vaccination experiments appear to have started in the early 1700's. The first consistently successful vaccine wasn't introduced until 1796. It wasn't actively used until 1799. It was not endorsed for full use until 1803.

Work began on a polio vaccine in 1935. There was not wide-spread use until 1955.

"With more than 160 potential vaccines for COVID-19 under study, optimistic experts hope that a viable vaccine may be ready by the end of 2020 while others think a realistic timeline is eighteen months."

- Many good things have come from our advancements as humans, yet it has instilled in us an impatience that is not healthy in our spiritual lives.
- We tend to excuse the "losing" of our patience in short term circumstances, and we struggle with letting buried long-term impatience fester and remove daily joy in Christ.**
- We must understand that patience is not simply "waiting", but it is active endurance and perseverance. Spiritual patience is not sitting still; it is running a race.



1. BE PATIENT - JESUS IS COMING. - VS. 7-8

Notice that this is how the writer begins teaching patience. It is not the last thing to look toward it is the first things that inspires our hearts to hope.

Our lives should be lived centered around the promised return of our King! We are closer than we have ever been.

Revelation 21 paints a sure and coming scene of glory. True faith clings to this promise of God and lives accordingly.

We are not instructed simply to be patient until things get better, to endure until we get what we want, or to persevere until troubles end. We are told to be patient past all earthly things until heaven is gained in God's timing.

"Be patient through difficulty, suffering, weariness, depression, anxiety, lust, temptation, pain, anger, discord, struggle, shame, disappointment, and all things. You will be with the Father soon."

2. BE PATIENT - GOD IS WORKING IN YOU. - VS. 7

Again, patience is not simply waiting.

Until Jesus returns, He has an unending work that He is doing in our lives. We are converted by grace of God, made a child of God, called to be a follower of God, and He is sanctifying us more and more to be like Jesus. God uses both joys and sorrows to conform us to be like Him.

This thought takes us back to where the study of the book of James began (1:2-4). God is accomplishing in us and is waiting patiently over the growth and fruit that is to come (5:7).

3. BE PATIENT - WITH EACH OTHER. - VS. 9

The word grudge in verse 9 means to grumble.

Example: *Screwtape Letters* and the parable of the man who was forgiven but would not forgive (Luke 7).

We often struggle to comprehend that we have been forgiven much. Overall, we think that we are pretty awesome. WE must be honest with ourselves. The real judge is standing at the door (5:9).

People given mercy liberally should extend mercy liberally.

Do you often grumble against others? It's a sure sign of impatience.

4. BE PATIENT - WE HAVE SEEN THAT KEEPS HIS PROMISES. - VS. 10-11

Think of the examples. Think of Job.

Brought by the attention of God, Satan attacks Job in an intense and personal way. Job loses everything but his wife. He faithfully remains patient in his faith. God's promises always outlast our trials.

Think of others who have found the faithfulness of God to be true. _____

5. BE PATIENT - LIVE IN HONEST COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS. - VS. 12

The reference here echoes the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 5 during the sermon on the mount. Jewish law was to forbid the swearing of an oath for every common little occasion, and it is sin to swear on the name of God. James takes it even further here explaining that we should have no need to swear an oath to add weight to our words.

Let your speech and your promises be plain, and let your word be truth. Through patience and hope, we should live the type of life that is trustworthy before men. As we look toward the coming of the Lord, there should be nothing that is worth being deceitful for personal agenda.

FAMILY DISCUSSION / PERSONAL STUDY

The Book of James teaches us that true faith reveals itself by works. What we do in our Christian life is fueled by what we believe.

Take *time* together as a family in God's Word. *Think* throughout the day to reinforce the main truth of the week. *Remember* significant ways God has worked in your lives.

TAKE TIME

Read Job 19:23-29 - Write out the truths about God that Job states despite his trials. In prayer, ask God to affirm and increase your faith in these same truths.

THINK

What are some of the most common reasons you grumble about or against people? What are some reasons that God could grumble against us? Think of the mercy that God has shown us, and by faith, extend that mercy to others.

REMEMBER

Write out some things that you have promised God. What are the types of circumstances that tend to make it easiest to break these promises? Pray for patience and endurance to follow God no matter the situation. Encourage children to do the same and encourage them not to quit when mistakes are made or wrongs are committed.