

SHOW JAMES

PART TEN

faith that works

JAMES 5:7-11

Key points

Think back through the message.
What stuck out?

The Matter of Patience

- vs.7
 - Patience is how we treat one another
 - How long should we be patient?
 - The carrot and the stick
1. The Farmer (vs.7)
 2. The Prophets (vs.10)
 3. Job (vs.11)

Patience is a Function of Faith and Hope

- It's about waiting
- There is an enormous difference between volunteering for what you can't help, and not helping what you can help

"God is too good to be unkind, and too wise to be mistaken. When we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart"

- Charles Spurgeon

James' Tips

- vs.8
- James 4:8
- Two basic categories where we exercise our hearts:
 - Responsibility
 - Regularity
- vs.9
- Patience is other people's lives not fitting our agenda
- One of the things that people object to about Christians, is that we are known for what we complain about instead of what we proclaim about

Four Things by way of Application

1. Identify an area of patience
2. Identify an area where you are not patient
3. How would a farmer, a prophet, or Job handle what I'm going through?
4. Commit the area of growth to God in prayer

How Do We Hope and Wait Well? How Do We Hold on to Hope Faithfully?

Here are a few simple ideas for when life gets hard and you're struggling to believe in God's promises:

Journal your gratitude. Using a simple journal like this one will help turn your focus from your frustrations to gratefulness instead. Spend a few moments each day writing out a few things you are thankful for-- even if they feel small and insignificant. Over time, your attitude will begin to shift and you'll start to notice a difference in your outlook on life.

Spend time in prayer. If you aren't sure where to start, consider doing a 30-day prayer challenge - the prompts and Scripture passages for each day will help you focus on different ways to draw near to the Lord as you communicate with him.

Share with a trusted friend. Sharing your struggles, doubts, fears, and worries with a loved one will help you to feel less alone in it all, and will bring comfort and encouragement. Often, others are going through similar things, and we'd never know unless we take the first step to share our own stories! Call up a friend today or get a coffee date on the calendar, and open up about what you're going through. Chances are, you'll both leave feeling more empowered to face the struggles of life knowing you have someone else in your corner.

Meditate on Scripture. The voices in our heads can get loud and overwhelming, but the more time we spend reading the Word of God, the more his truth will seep into our minds and hearts. Start with one verse to memorize and spend time each day reading over it and reminding yourself of what the Bible says to be true.

As we wait, through hard seasons and challenging circumstances, we can plant seeds of hope knowing that the Lord will bring them to life in abundance in his perfect timing. No matter what we are going through, no matter how we are feeling, the Lord has a purpose and a plan for it all. We can confidently have hope in him.

