

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Dec 2017

FAITH IN ACTION: #10: PATIENCE IN SUFFERING

INTRODUCTION

What situations tend to test your patience?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read James 5:7-12

*Note: In Israel the autumn rain comes in October and November soon after the grain is sown. The spring rain comes in March and April just prior to the harvest. "The early rain causes the seed to germinate and the plants to sprout. The later rain strengthens the stalks for the production of the buds, which will make for much harvestable grain when it ripens. In both cases the farmer waited for the sake of the grain in order that the grain (lit. "fruit"; cf. 3:17) might be his at harvest time."*¹

1. We're encouraged to be patient about Christ's return. What does James assume here? **Matt 24:42**
2. What are other responses people might have concerning His Second Coming?
3. James identifies three people that can teach us something about patience. Who are they and what can we learn from each of them? Vs 7 **Gal 6:9; Vs 10; Vs 11 Job 42:10** What are their rewards?
4. Why do people so easily complain and grumble against each another? **Jas 4:11-12**
5. To whom is James writing? What warning does James give Christians who grumble about each other?
Note: Grumble literally means groan. It is appropriate to groan in the face of suffering (Mark 7:34; Rom 8:23) but not at one another!
6. What are some Biblical examples of people who grumbled? **Ex 16:2** What happened?
7. How can Job's perseverance (not patience) encourage us in hard times?
8. What is important to remember about God's character in the midst of suffering? **Ps 103:8**
9. Who has been an example to you of perseverance during suffering?
10. "Above all, do not swear!" Why might James insert this exhortation right here? **Mt 5:33-37**
11. What does the absence of oaths require of people? How can believers help?

APPLICATION

- How often do you think about and anticipate Christ's return? What difference might that make?
- In what current relationship or problem do you need God's help to be patient?

Queen Victoria was much loved. She made unexpected calls on the farm folks who lived in cottages. Any day might be a royal day, and the Scots had a chair prepared for her visit. Their houses were kept spotless. They were a clean and wholesome people, but her announced visits added to the joy of keeping their homes lovely. The old people who remembered her visits in their youth charmed visitors by the expression used in the residences on Deeside. They would say,

*Perhaps today, she'll come my way.
Perhaps today the clouds will part asunder,
Reveal a glory brighter than the sun;
And we shall view, with transport, joy and wonder,
The hope of earth and Heaven's beloved one.*

What would happen if we had the same anticipation of Christ's second coming?

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¹ Richardson, K. A. (1997). Vol. 36: James. The New American Commentary (219). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.