



Be Patient

James 5:7-11

Series: *Faith That Works*, #10 (James)

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Theme: **A living faith demonstrates patience.**

The Picture of Patience.

1. What it is not.
2. What it is. (7, 8, 10, 11; see also Genesis 8:22; Isaiah 7:13; Matthew 24:27; John 13:34-35; Acts 26:3; Romans 2:4; 9:22; 1 Corinthians 13:4; 1 Timothy 1:15-16; 1 Peter 2:19-23)

The Priority of Patience.

1. Commanded by God. (7, 8; see also Psalm 37:7-9; James 4:17)
2. Indispensable to true, living faith.
(7, 11; see also Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 11:1; James 1:2-4)

The Process of Patience.

1. Personal responsibilities. (8, 9; see also Ephesians 4:29; 6:10-11; 1 Peter 5:10)
2. God's provision. (11)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read James 5:7-11. Remember that the patience James speaks of is more than an inherited trait or a self-developed quality. Biblical patience is a spiritual quality that God offers to and expects from every believer. Take a close look at the condition of this quality in yourself as you go through the week.

Tuesday. The example of patient farmers in 5:7 highlights the certainty of God and His provisions. As you read the Bible during the rest of this week, use a piece of paper with the headings: #1—Truth about God; #2—Promises of God; #3—For me to trust this today means ... Record your observations in the first two columns and applications in the third.

Wednesday. Lack of Godly patience is demonstrated in being dissatisfied and complaining (5:9). It is easy and natural to justify this sin in ourselves, while feeling hurt by others who do that to us. God holds each of us accountable for our actions, regardless of what the other person is like or does. Ask God to forgive you, to change you. Focus on love, acceptance, forgiveness and *patience* for others.

Thursday. The process of becoming a patient person involves personal responsibilities (5:8, 9) and relying on God's provision (5:11). We tend to go to extremes—trying it on our own or waiting for God to do it all. Make sure you have the total picture, the balanced and effective approach.

Friday–Saturday. Next Sunday we move to the last section of the letter, 5:12-20 where we will consider *Four Final Imperatives*. Read and think through these verses as you prepare for our time together.