

How to be Patient in Suffering

November 2, 2017

James 5:7-11 ESV

7 **Be patient** (*makrothymeō*), **therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.**

- *patient* (*makrothymeō*) *persevere patiently and bravely, to be of a long spirit, not to lose heart, slow to anger, suffer long*
- *the patience James speaks of is the endurance to wait for the coming of the Lord*
- *Two dynamics will cause the flesh to grow weary:*
 - *suffering and pain*
 - *boredom - the flesh quickly becomes bored, restless, tired, impatient and anxious with waiting*
- *the Kingdom of God operates by relationship, not by dramatic and flashy attractions, and relationship requires time and patience*
- *the Church cannot compete with the world nor professional religion - neither will it nor should it*

8 **You also, be patient** (*makrothymeō*). **Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.**

- *The underlying message is that life will not get better or easier until Jesus returns, so wait patiently.*

9 **Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.**

10 **As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.**

11 **Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.**

- *Epistle of James written by James, the half-brother of Jesus, who was not one of the original disciples.*

John 7:5 ESV "For not even his brothers believed in him."

1 Corinthians 15:7 ESV "Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles."

- *Epistle of James written from Jerusalem about AD 45-48, the first NT book to be written.*
- *Epistle of James written to Jewish Christians dispersed due to persecution.*

James 1:1 ESV James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion.

THE SUFFERING IN THIS LIFE WE ARE TO ENDURE

Romans 8:18-23 ESV

18 **For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**

19 **For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.**

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope
21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

- **SUFFERING FROM OUR FLESH**

- **Temptation and Sin**

Romans 7:22-24 ESV

22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,

23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

- **Mortality**

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 ESV

42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

- **SUFFERING FROM THIS WORLD SYSTEM**

John 16:33 ESV

33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Mark 4:16-19 ESV

16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy.

17 And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.

18 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word,

19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

John 15:18-20 ESV

18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.

19 *If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

20 *Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.*

- **SUFFERING FROM SATAN'S KINGDOM**

Ephesians 6:10-13 ESV

10 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.*

11 *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*

12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

13 *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*

ESTABLISH YOUR HEARTS

James 5:8 ESV

8 You also, be patient. ESTABLISH (stērizō - make stable, render constant, fix, place firmly, set fast, strengthen) YOUR HEARTS, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

- **Know your enemy.**

Ephesians 6:11 ESV

11 *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes (methodeia - method, strategy, plan, device, lie in wait) of the devil.*

2 Corinthians 2:11 ESV

11 *so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.*

- **Know your vulnerabilities.**

Galatians 2:11-13 ESV

11 *But when Cephas (Aramaic for Peter) came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.*

12 *For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.*

13 *And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.*

- **Know your condition.**

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 ESV

8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.

9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

10 He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

- **Know your remedy.**

Jude 1:19-21 ESV

19 It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,

21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

- **“building yourselves up in your most holy faith”**

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17 ESV

- reading
- study
- meditation
- teaching

- **“praying in the Holy Spirit”**

“..we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.” Romans 8:26 ESV

- worship and praise
- waiting and listening
- petition and supplication
- praying in other tongues, with groanings that cannot be uttered

- **“Keep yourselves in the love of God”**

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?” Romans 8:35 ESV

- convinced of God’s love for you

- **“Waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ”**

“Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.” 2 Corinthians 1:9 ESV

- trusting not in the wisdom, resources or strength of the flesh
- trusting in Christ alone