

LESSON 12

THOSE WHO WAIT

JAMES 5:7–12



1 As a child, what did you find difficult to wait for?

2 What is the most patient animal you can think of?

3 Who is the most patient person you know?

4 Which Bible character do you admire for his or her patience? Why?



Read James 5:7–12 and the following notes:

☐ 5:7, 8 ☐ 5:9

5 How does this section relate to 5:1–6?

6 Most people would advise fighting against suffering or doing all you can to escape it. Why is it important to be patient in suffering?

7 Describe Job's experience of perseverance. How is his example an encouragement for us?

8 Why does a God “full of tenderness and mercy” allow his people to experience suffering?



This passage continues some themes that James has already expressed in this letter: that Christians are to live in light of eternity, that God can be trusted to give good gifts to his children, and that problems are to bring us to God rather than turn us against fellow Christians. These truths have great value as we experience injustice and as we suffer in an evil world. Though the world might counsel self-defense, vengeance, and warfare, God counsels patience. The patience described here is rooted in an assurance of better things from God; it is confident that God is in control and is for us; it sees all the experience in this life in light of eternity. Whenever you feel discouraged, ready to do battle, or bitter, step back and offer it all to God. Ask him to help you persevere in your faith.

9 What is the role of faith in responding to suffering?

10 What is the difference between patience and perseverance? Which is more difficult for you?



11 In what ways do Christians still suffer for their faith?

12 Why should the upcoming day of judgment be an incentive for patient living now?

13 What is most difficult for you about being patient in suffering?

14 Think about a situation in which you have suffered. How could you have been more patient at that time?

15 What will prevent patience from becoming laziness and inactivity? How is it possible to be patient and yet active?

16 How might persevering in suffering bring blessing to you (5:11)?

17 Select one aspect of your life in which you are experiencing suffering. How patient are you in this suffering? What would it mean to be even more patient?



A Which prophets were good examples of patience? What was their secret?

B When is it difficult for a farmer to be patient? What happens to impatient farmers?

C What influence should the Lord's imminent return have on how we live (5:8)?

D Why was James concerned about oath taking (5:12)? Why is it so difficult to believe another's simple yes or no? Why is this important for believers?

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