

Let Us Exercise Patience  
(James 5:7-8)

Introduction:

1. Our lesson is based on the admonition that James gave twice in these verses to "be patient."
2. May our study help us:
  - a. to understand how important patience is in Christianity
  - b. to develop the determination to exercise patience
  - c. to be determined to overcome impatience.

Discussion:

- I. AS WE BEGIN, WE MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT "PATIENCE" IS
  - A. There are several words in the Bible translated "patience."
  - B. One word can also be translated "longsuffering."
    1. This is the spirit we are to have while we go through periods of waiting.
    2. This kind of "patience" is illustrated by the farmer (James 5:7).
  - C. Another word can also be translated "endurance," "steadfastness," or "perseverance."
    1. We develop this type of "patience" as a result of going through difficulties.
    2. This is the type of "patience" mentioned in James 1:3.
  - D. Christians are to develop and exercise both types of "patience."
  - E. Now that we understand what "patience" is, let us show . . .
- II. WHY WE MUST EXERCISE PATIENCE (2 reasons)
  - A. First, the Bible repeatedly teaches us to be patient.
    1. (Luke 21:19) Jesus said, *"In your patience possess ye your souls."*
    2. (Romans 12:12) Christians are to be *"patient in tribulation."*
    3. (Galatians 5:22-23) *"Longsuffering"* is a part of the fruit of the Spirit.
    4. (1 Thessalonians 5:14) *"Be patient toward all men."*
    5. (Hebrews 12:1) We are to *"run with patience the race that is set before us."*
    6. (2 Peter 1:5-7) *"Patience"* is one of the Christian graces.
  - B. Second, the Bible shows how "patience" will help us.
    1. "Patience" will help us in bearing fruit (Luke 8:15; John 15:8).
    2. "Patience" will help us while we wait to receive God's promise.
      - a. This point is made in Hebrews 10:36.
      - b. This point is illustrated by Abraham (Hebrews 6:15).
    3. "Patience" will help us to avoid falling away (2 Peter 1:6, 8-10).
    4. "Patience" will help us when we pray (Psalm 40:1).
  - C. Now that we understand why we must exercise patience, let us consider several passages that teach us . . .
- III. HOW TO DEVELOP PATIENCE
  - A. When we face trials, we must ask for wisdom (James 1:5-6; 3:17).
  - B. We learn from 1 Corinthians 13:4 that we must develop the right kind of love because *"charity suffereth long."*
  - C. We must look to positive role models such as:
    1. Christ (Hebrews 12:2-3)
    2. the prophets (James 5:10)
    3. Job (James 5:11).
  - D. We must learn to *"wait upon the Lord"* (Isaiah 40:28-31).

Conclusion:

1. In James 5:7-8 the admonition to "be patient" is given twice.
2. These verses also mention *"the coming of the Lord"* twice.
3. This lets us know:
  - a. how long we must exercise patience -- until the Lord returns
  - b. another reason why we must exercise patience -- the Lord will return and give a reward to those who have served Him faithfully.