

Living Faith: Part 2- Patience & Waiting

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. Are you sunrise, daylight, twilight or night? Please share why you picked your time of day.
2. What are your 10 favourite foods?

WORD

James 5:7-12 (NIV)

7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. 12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

How to develop patience and waiting through our sufferings?

*TRUST IN THE PROMISE

James 5:7a says "7a Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming.

When there is a promise of a better life after your suffering and when we trust in the promise of God that the Lord is coming, then we will develop patience that we will need during our sufferings

***KNOW SOME THINGS ARE OUT OF CONTROL**

James 5:7b says

“See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crops, just not one but many crops, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.”

On this text is an example of the farmer, we could compare it with our lives, some things in our lives are just out of our control. We could prepare for our future, get a degree, get a job, but we never know what the future holds. We do not know what sufferings we will face in our future. But if we continue to rely on God's strength and not our own strength, especially in times of our sufferings and pain, then anything that comes in the future even if we don't know it yet we could face it and overcome it knowing that some things are out of our control, and that we need to rely on God's strength. We will develop patience in the midst of our sufferings.

***WE ARE CALLED TO BE PATIENT**

8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near

Now he is talking to the present believers that are reading this text and hearing this text, he is talking about you and me. That we are all called to be patient, the present believers and the future believers.

This is a beautiful example that the bible is timeless, that what text that helped our brothers and sisters many many many years ago could also help us, in the present time, the present believers and the future believers as well.

***THE LORD COULD RETURN ANYTIME.**

9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

This verse actually warns us to stop our grumbling or complaining to one another when we face our problems and our sufferings. It also says here that the Judge is standing at the door, expressions like these and in verse 8 when James said that the coming of the Lord is near tells us that the Lord could return any moment and we should avoid these petty conflicts like what we

talked in chapter 4 and look forward and be on guard for our Lord's return. In doing so, good behaviour, patience and waiting through our sufferings will be developed.

DISCUSSION

1. In what area of your life are you struggling to demonstrate patience and waiting? Share one.
2. Is there a particular person with whom you find it difficult to be patient?
3. How does your impatience manifest itself? Anger? Annoyance? Sarcasm? Judgment? Discontentment? How do you overcome it?

LIFE APPLICATION

JAMES 5:10-12 NIV

10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. 12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

Let us continue to **TRUST** in the promise, knowing that some things are just out of our control, that the Lord could come anytime, that we aren't the only ones that are suffering, let us continue to become patient in the midst of our sufferings.

Let us continue to **PERSEVERE**, there will be a reward . Persevere means to continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with little or no prospect of success.

Let us continue to be **ASSERTIVE**. So James closes this letter with this statement. Do not swear, not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Swearing in this passage does not mean profanity. It means a verbal agreement, James is warning us to not swear or not to promise the things that we can't live up to. And telling us to be assertive, that when we say yes, we mean yes and when we say no, we mean no.

In this text we can also see that if we don't mean our Yeses and nos, we could actually deceive and manipulate our brothers and sisters. That we should value our word, because our word is our bond, and it must be trusted.

VERSE TO MEDITATE ON

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

PRAYER

Share your answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.

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