

A Field Guide for the Waiting (Part 1)

James 5:7-12

July 24, 2022 | Will Jackson, Executive Pastor

James 5:7-12 | 7 Be patient, 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. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 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. 12 But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

BIG IDEA: Be a Community of Growth and Purity.

I. Be Strengthened (vv. 7-8, 10-11)

A. Focus on the end (vv. 10-11)

Philippians 3:13-14 | 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

B. Embrace the journey (vv. 7-8)

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 | 3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. 4 Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

Ephesians 4:15-16 | 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

II. Fight Sin (vv. 9, 12)

A. Look beyond today

- i. Instead of grumbling, may we be marked by gentleness as we take on others' burdens.
- ii. Instead of taking oaths, may we preach the sufficiency of Christ to a hopeless world.

Matthew 5:33-37 | 33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

Benediction

Psalm 40:16 | But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the Lord!”