

Let us Adore Him- Joy
December 11, 2022

Outline Material complements of the Foundry Publishing unless otherwise noted

Me: /**We:** : **joy** “to experience great pleasure or delight : **REJOICE**” <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/joy>

God: Main Text: **James 5:7-11** **7***Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord’s return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen.* **8***You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.* **9***Don’t grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!* **10***For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.* **11***We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.*

1) Verse 7...Patience means more than endurance—it means intentionality (PK).

a) We sometimes think of patience as passively waiting for something to happen, or for something to end, but **James is using action words (talk about the farmer yesterday)** to mean that patience is about actively living out faith while waiting for the Lord’s return.

b) There is work to be done, even in the waiting. This is a consistent theme in the book of James, which is focused broadly on faith in action.

i) James 2:26 says boldly that “faith without deeds is dead.”

2) Verses 8-9 We are called to be patient and stand firm as the Lord’s coming draws near.

a) The words that have been translated as [take courage NLT] “stand firm” in the NIV are actually truer to the Greek meaning with the translation found in the NRSV of “strengthen your hearts.” This is an active statement, an exhortation to dig in our heels and prepare for the long, hard wait. Paul uses this phrase throughout the New Testament in relation to God, who strengthens hearts. Therefore, we actively seek the one who strengthens our hearts.

b) *for the Lord’s coming is near*....The Lord’s coming is near! (Draw near to God....PK)

C) Don’t grumble against your brothers and sisters.

i) Our time spent waiting isn’t to be spent actively serving as the judge of other believers. There is too much work to be done in the already/not yet kingdom of God to spend our time grumbling about other believers.

ii) (PK) Talk about friendly fire “As war has become increasingly antiseptic — with the ability to track who killed whom — friendly fire has loomed as a growing problem. In 1991’s Gulf War, 24% of the 148 U.S. battle deaths — 35 — were due to so-called friendly fire.”

<https://time.com/2854306/the-curse-of-friendly-fire/>

3) We look to the prophets as an example of patience in the face of suffering.

a) Although Job is the obvious example of the prophets’ sufferings, we can think of others who suffered yet endured.

1) Daniel, who was thrown into the lions’ den.

2) Elijah, who was pursued by the queen.

3) Hosea, who endured an unfaithful wife.

4) Jeremiah, who was known as the weeping prophet.

b) These prophets, and others, illustrate that God is close. They preached “the day of the Lord” drawing near, even in the midst of suffering.

You: So as we have heard from God’s Word today, what are you going to do about it? What are the things that cultivate joy in your life during this advent season?

We: Now let’s look ahead into the future to what our lives, our families, and how our communities, and even how our world would be different if each of us chose to pursue joy.

Receive love offering for the Solomons

BRAINSTORM AND NOTES

Hebrews 12:1-3 *1Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. 3Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up.*