

# Tough & Tender: A Study of 2 Peter & Jude

## Week 4: Like 1,000 Years

**Message Summary:** Why does this broken planet keep on spinning? If Jesus promised to return to put an end to our pain, why isn't he back yet? Why does he allow us to continue to hurt? Peter gives us perspective on this essential questions for our faith.

- ◆ How does it make sense to reject something over **words**, when the truth is undeniable?
  
- ◆ 2 Peter 3:4 — “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”
  
- ◆ How does God handle such **nonsense**? He’s **tough** and **tender**.
  
- ◆ 2 Peter 3:8-9 — “Do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”
  
- ◆ Why so long? The TOUGH answer for all: God points us to his **eternal nature** (2 Peter 3:8).
  
- ◆ Why so long? The TENDER answer for the lost: God points us to his **abundant patience** (2 Peter 3:9).
  - ❖ Acts 1:6 — **Peter** had to learn these truths just like us.
  
  - ❖ John 21:20-23 — **John** had to learn these truths too, just like us.

- ◆ Why so long? The TENDER answer for you: God points us to his **redeeming power** (1 Peter 1:1-2).
  
- ◆ 1 Peter 1:1-2 — “To God’s elect, exiles scattered... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God... sprinkled with his blood.”
  - ❖ God allowed a long difficult life for **Peter** for **our sake**.
  
  - ❖ God allows a long difficult life for you for the sake of **people** yet **unreached**.
  
- ◆ In heaven, we will praise Jesus for the **speed** of his **return**.

### **Planting Jesus Roots**

**GATHER** — What aspects of worship encourage you in perseverance as we await the Lord's return?

**GROUP** — How might we encourage our brothers and sisters in the faith, especially those who suffer and long for Jesus' return?

**GROW** — What insights have you gained in your study of Scripture over the years which have taught you that God's ways are much better than our ways?

**GIVE** — This week, think of some brothers and sisters in the faith suffering. In words and actions, bring them hope from 2 Peter and the message today.

**GO** — God is patient wanting no one to perish. Who in your life might you reach this week with the gospel, one for whom God patiently awaits?

**Homework:** 2 Peter 3:1-9