

Patience

Paciencia

How should we patiently wait for the Lord?
¿Cómo debemos esperar pacientemente al Señor?

1. Let's not grumble against _____.

No nos quejemos unos de _____.

James 5:9 (Santiago 5:9)

1 Peter 4:7-9 (1 Pedro 4:7-9)

Philippians 2:14-15 (Filipenses 2:14-15)

2. Let's persevere in times of _____.

Perseveremos en tiempos de _____.

James 5:10-11 (Santiago 5:10-11)

James 1:2-4 (Santiago 1:2-4)

Hebrews 10:35-37 (Hebreos 10:35-37)

3. Let's continue to be _____.

Sigamos siendo dignos de _____.

James 5:12 (Santiago 5:12)

Matthew 5:34-37 (Mateo 5:34-37)

Revelation 2:10 (Apocalipsis 2:10)



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 10: July 27 – August 3

James 5:7-12

Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). James knew that his readers were going through difficult times, so in the final chapter of his book, he reminds them to be patient because Jesus is coming soon. When Jesus returns, He will heal all the hurts caused by sin and redeem His broken creation. This is a practical lesson for us as well. When we are discouraged by the problems we face in this world, we should remember what the Bible says about the return of Christ and be patient. In James 5:7-12, James tells us how we can be patient as we wait for the coming of the Lord.

Read James 5:7-12

1. What did James tell us to wait patiently for in verse 7?

Kent Hughes writes,

Three great words in the New Testament refer to the Lord’s Second Coming. *Epiphania* means an appearing or a showing or a manifestation of Christ. Another great word is *apokalupsis*, which means an unveiling, a laying bare, a revelation, and refers to the full display of Christ’s power and glory. The third word, the one for the Lord’s “coming” in James 5:7-8 of our text, is *parousia*, which emphasizes Christ’s physical presence, literally meaning “being alongside of.” It is used in this way fifteen times in the New Testament in reference to Christ’s return, denoting “the physical arrival of a ruler.” The significance of the word as James uses it here is that his suffering people longed for the presence of Christ, their King. (Hughes, 200)

2. What illustration did James use to describe the kind of patience we need? (5:7)
3. Why did James tell us to “stand firm” (NIV) or (strengthen your hearts” (NASB) in verse 8?

Charles Swindoll notes,

The word “strengthen” (*stērīzō* [4741]) means to establish, support, or fix something firmly in place so it’s immovable.

Under stress and duress, the heart can grow heavy, but the Spirit of God can lighten the load of a heart weighed down with pressures. Psalm 55:22 says, “Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.” (Swindoll, 116)

4. Why must we refrain from grumbling against each other? (5:9)
5. Who did James point to as good examples of patience in verse 10?
6. What should we do in times of suffering? (5:10-11)
7. What did James say about Job in verse 11?

Gary Holloway writes,

This is the only place Job is mentioned in the New Testament. If one reads the book of Job, he seems an unlikely example of patience since he loudly complains to God. However, it is not quiet patience James has in mind here but heroic endurance. Job endured all that Satan threw against him and still maintained his relationship with God. (Holloway, 121)

8. What did James say about God in verse 11?
9. What warning did James give concerning swearing? (5:12)
10. Does this command mean that we cannot “swear” to tell the truth as a legal witness at a trial? (5:12)

Holloway comments,

Jesus himself spoke under oath at his trial (Matthew 26:63-64). God is often called upon to witness to the truth of Paul’s statements (Romans 1:9; 2 Corinthians 1:23; Galatians 1:20; Philippians 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 2:5,10). It is not oaths but honesty at stake here. Christians should be truthful, people of their word, in all their dealings. They should not have to resort to swearing to convince others. Their character alone should be enough to prove their veracity. (Holloway, 123)

11. What feelings do you have when you think about the return of Christ?

Hughes observes,

Most Christians think little of Christ's return, or if they do think about the day they will see Christ, they associate it with the day of their death. This is a proper hope, but death is not a pleasant thing, and thus the expectation of seeing Christ is mixed with a certain fear of the dark veil. But it is not so with his Second Coming. It is all joy! And that singular joy is meant to be a boon to our souls. The Scriptures say his coming is near, and we are not only to believe this, but to embrace it! (Hughes, 202)

12. What helps you to stand firm as a Christian in times of suffering?

13. Why did James tell his first-century readers, "the Lord's coming is near"? What did he mean by that?

Holloway notes,

Jesus himself did not know the hour, so he urges his followers to be alert and keep watch (Mark 13:32-37). Peter reminds those who were doubting the promise of his return that "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day" (2 Peter 3:8). So, to every generation, the coming is near. James did not know when Jesus would return, but he is right in reminding his readers that his coming is near. (Holloway, 120)

14. What happens when Christians grumble against each other?

15. What situations in life have tested your patience the most?

16. What can Christians do to build up their credibility?

17. In what situation do you need to have patience this week?

18. What will you do this week to avoid grumbling against others?

Sources cited:

Holloway, Gary. *James & Jude*. College Press, 1996.

Hughes, R. Kent. *James: Faith that Works*. Crossway, 2015.

Swindoll, Charles. *Insights on James, 1 & 2 Peter*. Tyndale, 2014.