

**Step-by-Step: Practical Living from the Book of James****Take the Step of Patience**

James 5:7-12

*“Love is patient...”* **1 Corinthians 13:4a***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”* **Galatians 5:22-23a****Patience:** Taking punishment from people & circumstances without losing your temper or taking vengeance. Bearing pain & trials without complaint. Forbearing under severe provocation without acting rashly.*“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 & the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering & patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, & you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate & merciful. 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 & your ‘no’ be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.”***James 5:7-12****Main Idea: Getting Established in Christ Produces Patience****I. What is Patience?***“You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”* **James 5:8***“Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold & will inherit eternal life.’”* **Matthew 19:28-29****Patience endures pain, suffering, evil & injustice...for a season.***“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”***John 16:33****II. Who is Patient?***“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 & the late rains...As an example of suffering & patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, & you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate & merciful.”***James 5:7, 10-11****James gives three examples of patience:**

- **Gardener:** Doesn’t know if/when the rains will come, but he is patient because growing food takes time and **the result is worth the wait!**
- **Prophets:** They remained faithful to God in spite of incredible opposition, because **the end result was worth what it cost** to get there!

*“Others suffered mocking & flogging, & even chains & imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep & goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated – of whom the world was not worthy – wandering about in deserts & mountains, & in dens & caves of the earth. And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.”* **Hebrews 11:36-40**

- **Job:** Had no idea why he lost his wealth, children, livestock & the respect of his friends in an instant, but **he believed in God’s ultimate justice.**

*“And he said, ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, & naked shall I return. The LORD gave, & the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.’ In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.”* **Job 1:21-22****III. Why Be Patient?***“Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door...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 & your ‘no’ be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.”***James 5:9, 12***“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”***Romans 12:12****Examples of a Lack of Patience:**

- **Moses (Numbers 20)**
- **Abraham (Genesis 16)**
- **Simon Peter (John 18)**

*“The only thing worse than waiting on the Lord is wishing you had.”***Dr. Crawford Loritts***“But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run & not be weary; they shall walk & not faint.”***Isaiah 40:31***“But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, & a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow concerning his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”* **2 Peter 3:8-9**

God has been patient with you, so you can repent of sin and follow Jesus. And as followers of Jesus, we have no excuse not to be patient with others because of God’s patience with us.

**Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:**

- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *New American Commentary: James* – Kurt Richardson (1996)
- *Shoe Leather Christianity* – Johnny M. Hunt (2014)
- *Holman NT Commentary: Hebrews & James* – Max Anders (1999)
- *The Book of James* – Johnny M Hunt (2003)

- *James: Faith that Works* – R. Kent Hughes (2013)
- *Exploring the Epistle of James* – John Phillips (2003)
- *Be Mature* – Warren Wiersbe (2010)
- *Swindoll's Living Insights: James, 1&2 Peter* – Chuck Swindoll (2014)

### **Family Dedication Segment**

#### **Pastor's Challenge:**

Children are a gift from God, **Psalm 127:3** proclaims, *"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward."* As believers we are called to recognize that children belong first & foremost to God. God in his goodness gives children as gifts to parents. They not only have the awesome responsibility of caring for this gift, but also the wonderful privilege of enjoying the gift. Because children belong to God and are given by grace as gifts to parents, it is only proper and appropriate that children be dedicated back to God.

We are told in **1 Samuel 1** that Hannah presented her son Samuel to the Lord. In **Luke 2:22** we read that Mary and Joseph brought their baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem in order to present him before the Lord. In the same way, these parents today bring their children, presenting FIRST themselves and THEN their child before the Lord our God.

**PARENTS**, I call your attention to the commands of God recorded in Holy Scripture. **Deuteronomy 6:4-6** tells us: *"Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."***

**Ephesians 6:4:** *"fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."*

#### **God's instructions are plain.**

**PARENTS**, love God with every ounce and fiber of your being and teach your children to do the same. As you love God, one another, and others, you will model before the little one a wonderful love for God that they will want for themselves.

**Parents Vow: Parents** by coming forward before God and his people, do you hereby declare your desire to dedicate yourselves and your **Child** to the Lord? If so, please respond by saying "we do." ("We do.")

Having come freely, I ask now that you enter into the following commitment in the presence of God and his people *"So that (CHILD) may walk in the abundant life that Christ offers, do you (PARENTS) vow by God's help and in partnership with the church, to provide (CHILD) a Christian home of love and peace, to raise them in the truth of our Lord's instruction and discipline, and to encourage him/her to one day trust Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord? ("We do.")*

**Church Family's Vow:** Finally, I ask that the church make a vow as well. There's an old proverb that says *"it takes a village to raise a child."* Parents have first responsibility. But parents need the help and support of the community. So I direct my question now to the church. Would you please stand? Having come freely, I ask now that you make the following commitment to those who stand before you: *"So that (CHILD) may walk in the abundant life that Christ offers, do you vow by God's help, to be faithful in your calling as members of the body of Christ, to help (PARENTS) be faithful to God, and to help teach and train (CHILD) in the ways of the Lord so that they might one day trust him as Savior and Lord? If you accept this responsibility, please respond by saying "we do.""*

#### **Time of Prayer & Commitment**

**Presentation of Certificate and Gift** – Gifts will be picked up