

What Patience Looks Like James 5:7-11 (NKJV)

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! 10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

One of the things that I have learned over the years is that the best way to teach someone something is to show them, to give them an example.

A page of instructions will not do nearly as good as watching someone do the job.

So it is with most things in life.

And maybe even more so with patience.

But today it is a lost virtue, to be able to exercise patience.

So today James wants us to look at the patience of others so that we can know how it is supposed to look like.

Often times we try something difficult and we cannot succeed and we give up thinking that it can't be done.

We think that no one can do it.

So we get some encouragement when we look at the people in the Bible that God has left us to show us what patience looks like.

I. Establish your hearts.

A. *sterizo*, a word meaning "to make fast," "to establish," or "to confirm." It is a word denoting resoluteness, firm courage, an attitude of commitment to stay the course no matter how severe the trial. *John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary – James, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1998), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 255.*

B. Patience is not simply a stoic response to the trial that we face.

1. It requires a strong effort to stay put or stay on course.
2. It is like a ship being battered by the wind trying to drive it off course but the captain makes a determination to stay on course.

C. Your heart.

1. The heart is the word used to describe with is dearest to us.
2. It is the center of our soul where all our essence is.
3. And it is often easily distracted, either by pleasure or by trials.
4. Solomon was a man with his heart set on God in the beginning of his reign.
 - a. But the foreign women that he married turned his heart away from his steadfastness in God.
 - b. 1 Kings 11:4 For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as [was] the heart of his father David.
5. But adversity can also mess us up.
 - a. Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.
 - b. Thus the need for patience in trials.

D. Pray for strength for the Lord.

1. Ephesians 3:14-19 (NKJV) 14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
2. 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (NKJV) 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, 13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.
3. 1 Peter 5:10 (NKJV) 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

II. Do not grumble against one another.

- A. Why do people strike out against those around us when we face trials?
 1. It is a part of the fallen condition.
 2. We can't strike those who are causing the problem and we can't strike out

against God so we strike out at those that are near-by.

- B. It is Satan's way of isolating us from the people that care the most about us.
 - 1. Don't forget we are in a spiritual warfare amongst our physical problems.
 - 2. Satan thought that Job would strike out against God when he suffered but he did not.
 - 3. Don't fall into Satan's snare.

III. Look at the prophets.

A. Moses

- 1. Moses was constantly rejected by the people he had come to deliver.
- 2. They would have stoned him more than once if God had not intervened.
- 3. But yet Moses' patience is one of his greatest assets.

B. David

- 1. Although David was nothing but a faithful servant to Saul yet Saul pursued David like a criminal.
- 2. Yet on two occasions when David could have killed Saul, he did not.
- 3. He waited on God to remedy the problem.

C. Jeremiah

- 1. Jeremiah was probably the most persecuted prophet in the Old Testament.
- 2. Because of his sermons and stand, Jeremiah suffers much.
- 3. He is persecuted by his own family (12:6).
 - a. Jeremiah 12:6 (NKJV) 6 For even your brothers, the house of your father, Even they have dealt treacherously with you; Yes, they have called a multitude after you. Do not believe them, Even though they speak smooth words to you.
- 4. He is plotted against by the people of his hometown (11:21).
 - a. Jeremiah 11:21 (NKJV) 21 "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the men of Anathoth who seek your life, saying, 'Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD, lest you die by our hand'--
- 5. He is rejected and reviled by his peers in the religious world.
- 6. Pashhur, the chief Temple priest, has him whipped and put in stocks (20:1-3).
 - a. Jeremiah 20:1-3 (NKJV) 1 Now Pashhur the son of Immer, the

priest who was also chief governor in the house of the LORD, heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things. 2 Then Pashhur struck Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the high gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the LORD. 3 And it happened on the next day that Pashhur brought Jeremiah out of the stocks. Then Jeremiah said to him, "The LORD has not called your name Pashhur, but Magor-Missabib.

7. He is almost murdered by a wild mob of priests and prophets after one of his messages (26:7-9).
 - a. Jeremiah 26:7-9 (NKJV) 7 So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. 8 Now it happened, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him, saying, "You will surely die! 9 Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without an inhabitant?'" And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.
8. He is ridiculed by a false prophet named Hananiah (28).
9. He is threatened by King Jehoiakim (26:21-24; 36:26).
 - a. Jeremiah 26:20-24 (NKJV) 20 Now there was also a man who prophesied in the name of the LORD, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjath Jearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah. 21 And when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death; but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid and fled, and went to Egypt. 22 Then Jehoiakim the king sent men to Egypt: Elnathan the son of Achbor, and other men who went with him to Egypt. 23 And they brought Urijah from Egypt and brought him to Jehoiakim the king, who killed him with the sword and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people. 24 Nevertheless the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah, so that they should not give him into the hand of the people to put him to death.
 - b. Jeremiah 36:26 (NKJV) 26 And the king commanded Jerahmeel the king's son, Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet, but the LORD hid them.
10. He is arrested, flogged, and accused of treason (37:11-16).

a. Jeremiah 37:11-16 (NKJV) 11 And it happened, when the army of the Chaldeans left the siege of Jerusalem for fear of Pharaoh's army, 12 that Jeremiah went out of Jerusalem to go into the land of Benjamin to claim his property there among the people. 13 And when he was in the Gate of Benjamin, a captain of the guard was there whose name was Irijah the son of Shelemiah, the son of Hananiah; and he seized Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "You are defecting to the Chaldeans!" 14 Then Jeremiah said, "False! I am not defecting to the Chaldeans." But he did not listen to him. So Irijah seized Jeremiah and brought him to the princes. 15 Therefore the princes were angry with Jeremiah, and they struck him and put him in prison in the house of Jonathan the scribe. For they had made that the prison. 16 When Jeremiah entered the dungeon and the cells, and Jeremiah had remained there many days,

11. Zedekiah sends to Jeremiah asking for his prayers after Nebuchadnezzar had declared war on Judah (21:1, 2). Jeremiah sends word back to the wicked king stating prayers were useless on this subject, for God would use the Babylonians to punish Jerusalem, and Zedekiah himself was to be given over to Nebuchadnezzar (21:3-7). Jeremiah tells Zedekiah that Jerusalem will be burned and he is to be captured and carried into Babylon (34:1-5). *Harold L. Willmington, Willmington's Guide to the Bible, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1981), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 202.*

IV. See how Job ended up.

A. Job had been blessed with much possessions and a large family.

B. But God gave him more than he had had before.

C. Romans 8:16-19 (NKJV)

1. 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.

8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.