

## James 5:7-12

### **Learning to Be Patient**

Patience is a great attribute to have. James first mentioned patience in 1:3, where we were told that the testing of our faith produces patience. Through this book, we have seen a variety of tests to expect in life. Here, James gives us some words of encouragement as we learn to be patient.

- > How do verses 7-8 motivate us to be patient? We know the Lord is returning, we may have to wait, but it will be worth it.
- > How should Christ's return impact the way we treat others (v. 9)? We shouldn't grumble knowing the Judge is about to return.
- > What can we learn from the prophets about patience (v. 10; note Heb. 11:36-38)? Looking at what they endured, we have no reason to complain if our circumstances require us to be patient.
- > Concerning Job (v. 11), read Job 1:14-20 and 42:12-13. What does this show us about patience? The Lord is in control, He is working things out for good/His purposes. We can trust Him.
- > Verse 12 tells us to establish ourselves as trustworthy people in any circumstance. We should not have to make statements like "I swear to God" for people to believe us.

### **Application**

Patience is important as we allow God to accomplish His will in our lives. In tough times, find encouragement knowing:

- Jesus Christ can return at any time.
- People before us have endured much worse.
- The Lord is very compassionate and merciful toward those who endure.

We can always rely on God and His promises. And as we do, we display patience that reveals and displays our faith in God!

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