

JAMES - THE ART OF FAITHFUL LIVING

WEEK 10: DEVELOPING PATIENCE

JASON BRINKER - 11/10/24

GROWING TOGETHER *(ANSWER ALL OR JUST SOME OF THE ICE-BREAKERS)*

- Who is the most patient person you know or have known?
- Would the people you spend the most time with say you are a patient person?
- Would you call yourself a patient person?

GROWING WITH GOD *(ANSWER ALL OR JUST SOME OF THE QUESTIONS)*

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA: According to James, growing in faithfulness should mean learning to be patient, even when life feels out of control, people won't change, or we don't understand why we're struggling.

[Tim Keller's](#) definition of patience: Patience is graciousness, steadiness, and faithfulness in the face of delayed gratification.

Read, [James 5:7-11](#) & [Job 19:25-27](#) aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

We all know what it's like to face situations that are totally out of our hands. Whether it's a delayed plan like a promotion at work or a delayed vacation, perhaps you're waiting on some news regarding a health issue, or something else beyond your control, those moments push your patience and possibly test your faith. But as Pastor Jason pointed out and showed us in verse 7 how a farmer waits on the rain, we're invited to trust God's timing and care, even when it's hard to see the outcome.

- **Looking back, can you remember a time when God used a period of waiting to grow you?**
- **How did that impact your faith?**

We all know someone in our lives who just doesn't seem to change, no matter what we say or do. Pastor Jason compared our challenge with these people to the work of the prophets such as Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Moses. These prophets faced resistance but kept sharing God's message. Our patience with others can reflect Jesus' patience with us, even when change seems slow or unlikely.

- **Who in your life challenges your patience because they don't seem willing to change?**
- **When have you seen a seed of faith take root over time in someone's life?**

Sometimes life throws things at us that we just can't understand. Pastor Jason used the example of Job—a man who faced loss and suffering all without knowing why. Yet, through it all, Job held onto his faith, trusting that God was still in control. In those moments when life feels unfair or doesn't make sense, we could learn a lesson from Job.

- **When things aren't going the way you'd hoped, how does remembering Job's story help you hold onto faith, patience and trust in God's goodness?**
- **Have you ever thought about how much your life would have to change before you lost your patience with the direction it was going? What would be the "straw that broke the camel's back" in your life? Would it be a relationship, a job issue, a health issue, etc?**

Think about a time when life just didn't add up—maybe that's where you're at right now. Those seasons can bring some tough questions, and we might find ourselves asking, "God, where are You in all of this?" Pastor Jason reminded us of Job, who clung to his faith even in the darkest moments, trusting that God was present, even when it didn't feel like it.

- **Do you find yourself saying things like, "I don't want to deal with this?", or "I don't want to mess with this person right now" or even, "God, where are you and how long do you want me to wait"?**
- **How has He answered your question?**

GROWING IN SCRIPTURE AND OBEDIENCE

Here are three insights Pastor Jason gave based on James' instructions for patience:

- 1) Be patient when circumstances are out of your control (reference, James 5:7)
- 2) Be patient when people are unchangeable (reference James 5:10)
- 3) Be patient when life makes no sense (reference James 5:11)

Finally, what is the ultimate reason why we should practice patience? James tells us in verse 5:8: "You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near." Or as Pastor Jason said it, Why should we be patient? Because God is sovereign and in control.

GROWING IN OBEDIENCE

Trust God's Timing (James 5:7-8)

Reflect: "Am I willing to trust God's timing, even when I can't see the outcome?" This week, take time each day to surrender any situation you're struggling to control. Pray, "God, help me to be patient and trust that You are working in ways I can't yet see."

Life Group Leader: Encourage your Life Group to share a specific situation where they're waiting on God. Remind them to pray daily for patience and to look for God's hand in the details. Check in next week to hear if anyone saw moments of peace or clarity in their waiting.

Be Patient with Others (James 5:10-11)

Reflect: "How does Jesus' patience with me shape how I respond to others?" This week, when someone tests your patience, ask God for grace to respond with compassion instead of frustration.

Life Group Leader: Challenge your Life Group to consider a relationship that requires extra patience right now. Encourage them to pray specifically for that person this week, asking God to help them show love and patience like Jesus does.

Hold On to Faith When Life Doesn't Make Sense (James 5:11)

Reflect: "Am I clinging to my faith even when life feels unfair?" This week, remember Job's example and choose to trust God's goodness, even in the confusing moments. Write down one way God has been faithful to you in the past, and thank Him for that.

Life Group Leader: Remind your Life Group that God's faithfulness in past struggles can help build faith in the present. Encourage each person to share a personal example of God's faithfulness and keep it as a reminder during challenging times.

GROWING IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP

This week's song list if you'd like to worship with your group.

[Take You At Your Word](#)

[Bless God- Brooke Ligertwood](#)

[Bless God - Cody Carnes](#)

[Who Else](#)

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