

Week 3: Joy in the Waiting

Scripture: James 5:7-11



Can we have joy in the midst of _____ suffering?

Patience means more than endurance - it means

_____.

- James is using _____ words to mean that patience is about _____ living out faith while _____ for the Lord's return.

We are called to be patient and to _____
_____ as the Lord's coming draws near.

- We are to be actively _____ in the work of the kingdom, even as the kingdom hasn't come in complete
_____.

- “stand firm” - - - “strengthen your hearts” (v8)
- Don’t _____ against your brothers and sisters.
- In the midst of all the division and suffering in the world, the community that is built on the faith in Christ needs to be a place that is _____ and that _____ one another.

Look to the _____ as an example of patience in the face of suffering.

- V11 says that “we count as blessed those who persevered.”

Joy is more than _____ understanding of happiness.

- Joy in the biblical sense is a deep-seated happiness that is _____ in the Lord.

We are called to live _____ as people of the kingdom of God now!

Start talking.

- When have you experienced the effects of drought? When you had too much rain?
- Tell a story of when you waited and what it was like?

Start thinking.

- Verse 7 is a wrapping up of vv1-6. Instead of seeking retaliation or vengeance, what are the poor to do?
- What lessons are provided by the farmer?
 - By the returning Judge?
 - By the prophets?
 - By the story of Job?
 - By the call to integrity (v12)?

Start sharing.

- When you experience hardship, what enables you to be patient and wait for God? What has tested that?
- When have you come closest to wandering from the faith?
- What (or who) helped bring you back?
- How does that help illustrate the healing ministry that can come from the body of Christ?
- How would you help someone else going through difficulty?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, suffering is real, and waiting for your return isn't always easy. Help me in the waiting to be patient, but also to be active in my waiting. Reveal Yourself to us this week as we seek out and live out Your good news for the world.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Pray daily for God to reveal Himself to you and one other person you choose to pray for.
- Start living as light within a world that is dark and allow God to use you to show others God's love.