REMAIN PATIENT

JAMES 5:7-12
11-4-2020

When treated like dirt; when putting up with injustice:
WE MUST BE PATIENT!

What is the secret to remaining patient?

REMEMBER 2 PROMISES:

I. REMEMBER THAT THE LORD WILL <u>SOON RETURN</u> (V. 7 - 9)
(His appearing is expectant)

A. Therefore, <u>be confident</u> (v. 7)
(have a patient attitude that is confident)

B. Therefore, <u>take courage</u> (v. 8)
(have a patient attitude that is encouraged)

C. Therefore, <u>don't complain</u> (v. 9)
(have a patient attitude without grumbling)

II. REMEMBER THAT THE LORD WILL <u>SURELY REWARD</u> (V. 10 - 11)
(His awarding is guaranteed)

A. God's reward is guaranteed on <u>his terms</u> (v. 10-11a)

B. God's reward is guaranteed in <u>his time</u> (v. 11b)

C. God's reward is guaranteed because of <u>his tenderness</u> (v. 11c)

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A. God's reward is guaranteed on _____ (v. 10-11a)

B. God's reward is guaranteed in _____ (v. 11b)

C. God's reward is guaranteed because of _____(v. 11c)

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INTRO: Note: Previous context V. 4-6.

We are often frustrated by the apparent prosperity of the wicked.
David's answer: Ps. 37:7 - "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him; fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass."

Our old nature tends to want God to make right all the wrongs that people have done to us <u>right now</u>!

The American prayer for patience is: "Give it to me now!"

"Patient" = “Macrothumia” (v. 7-10) - "restrain your heat" (to be able to put up with much friction without burning up and firing out at someone. Long fused.) The word occurs 4 times in v. 7 - 10. Long tempered, as opposed to short tempered. This word used most often in describing patience with <u>people</u>.

“Endure” & “Patience” = “Hupomone” (v.11) - to remain under control, keep composure; to be able to put up with much pressure without exploding. EX: sign on cans - "Warning: contents under pressure." "Endure," "patience" (from same root) - this word is used most often of <u>circumstances</u>.

When treated like dirt; when putting up with injustice:
WE MUST BE PATIENT!

What is the secret to remaining patient?

REMEMBER 2 PROMISES: 1) the Lord will soon <u>return</u>
2) the Lord will surely <u>reward</u>

Rev. 22:12 - "And behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

I. REMEMBER THAT: THE LORD WILL SOON RETURN (V. 7 - 9)

(His appearing is expectant)

It has been calculated that there are 1,835 references to the Second Coming in the Bible.

A. THEREFORE, BE CONFIDENT (V. 7)

(Have a patient attitude that is confident)

"The coming" = lit. the presence, the appearing.

The farmer is an illus. of patience because of confidence. He knows the harvest is coming, but first the rain must fall.

In Israel, he is concerned with two seasons:

1) Early rain (Nov.-Dec.) to loosen soil, to plant
2) Latter rain (Jan.-April) to mature crops; before reaping.

There is nothing a farmer can do to speed up (hasten) these rains. All he can do is patiently wait for them.

If a man is impatient, he had better not become a farmer. The only thing that grows overnight is weeds!

"In the farmer world, patience is a fruitful virtue" (Motyer).

The value ( ) of the harvest makes it worth it to wait patiently!
The confidence of the harvest makes it easy to wait patiently.

There must first be some "rainy days" before harvest time. There will be rainy, dismal days in our lives before Christ's coming; just as the rain was for the good of the crop, your trial will make Christ's appearing that much more special to you.

B. THEREFORE, TAKE COURAGE (V. 8)
(Have a patient attitude that is encouraged)

"Stablish your hearts" - "Stablish" = to set up. Hymn - "Are we down-hearted? NO! NO! NO!"

James is saying, "Lift up your droopy, depressed hearts because the Lord is one His way!"

Such encouragement gives us inner stability.

"Draweth nigh" = (Perfect tense) - Christ's coming (appearance) has come near and still is near (His bodily presence is near, but has not actually arrive yet; no one has seen Him yet in visions either).

It's like waiting for someone who ha been coming to your home from a long journey. Knowing this--that he will get to your house soon--is an encouragement for you to stay awake and anxious.

(Jesus said continually "Watch!")

C. THEREFORE, DON'T COMPLAIN (V. 9)
(Have a patient attitude without grumbling)

"Grudge not" = do not sigh or groan; inner attitude of criticism and fault-finding which will result in complaining and blaming other believers who are not responsible for the oppressed circumstances.

Don't lash out (let your frustrations out) against those who are near and dear to you!

The relationships that first see the effects of pressures on us are those closest to us (family and church).

Satan will work his hardest at getting us to minimize God's blessings and maximize and magnify little problems.

James' point: When times and circumstances are bad on the job, at home, in society, etc. (when the world mistreats you [cp. v. 5]) -- Don't take it out on your brothers!

Church should be a place to relieve tensions.

Cp. Israel who took their irritations out on Moses.

"To walk in love with saints above
will be a wondrous glory;
To walk below with saints we know--
well, that's another story!"

"Standeth before the door" - he has been standing at the door.

(Cp. Rev. 3:20 - "Behold I stand at the door and knock . . .") Imagine someoneatthedoorofyourhome-He'sthere! He'satthedoor! Readytoopen the door and come in.

II. REMEMBER THAT: THE LORD WILL SURELY REWARD (V. 10 - 11)

(His awarding is guaranteed)

A. GOD'S REWARD IS GUARANTEED ON HIS TERMS (V. 10-11A)

You must be faithful in serving Christ.

Jesus said: "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your **reward** in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets that were before you" (Mt. 5:11-12; cp. Acts 7:52; Heb. 11).

"Prophets" -

EX. Jeremiah ("Weeping Prophet") (had no success in men's eyes, seemed to be a failure.)
EX. Ezekiel
EX. Isaiah (preached & people wouldn't listen)
EX. Daniel (faithful - and thrown into lion's den)

"Spoke in the name of the Lord" - "Satan tells the faithful Christian that his suffering is a result of sin or unfaithfulness; and yet his suffering might well be because of faithfulness!" (Wiersbe, p. 156)

> "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (II Tim. 3:12)

"We call them blessed" - such examples of patience are worthy of honor and admiration.

B. GOD'S REWARD IS GUARANTEED IN HIS TIME (V. 11B)

"Heard" - points to the public reading of Scripture in the church.

Job lost everything for doing good! (see Job 1:1, 13-22; 2:7-10) But his end was blessed! (Job 42:10-17).

God only promises that our end will be good. This is all that really matters.

ILLUS: Sports event (football, baseball, basketball) - The only score that counts is the score at the end.

We already know the score at the end -- it's revealed in the Bible. God's trophy is waiting for us! The patient will win it! ("crown of life" for enduring testing - Ja. 1:12).

Secret to patience = knowing an end is coming (at the end, a reward awaits you)

ILLUS: Dentist drilling your teeth - He says, I'm almost done"

ILLUS: Sitting through a boring class - You can make it because you desire the diploma

ILLUS: Pregnant mother at the end - can endure because she knows at the end will be a child

ILLUS: Standing in a long line in bank - end: cash check

ILLUS: Being stuck in traffic - end: reach destination

Eccles. 7:8 - "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit."

"In due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9)

The God who showed His abundant compassion and mercy in rewarding Job is the same today! You may not be rewarded in this life (because the Lord may come back before); but I assure you that if you are not, you will have an even greater reward in the next!

C. GOD'S REWARD IS GUARANTEED BECAUSE OF HIS TENDERNESS (V. 11C)

Some would say, "If God is so compassionate and merciful, why didn't He protect Job from all the suffering to begin with?"

Answer: We don't know (with our finite minds) all the mysteries of God's workings, but we do know this:
1) God was glorified 2) Job was purified (Job 23:10)

"Pitiful" = (compassion) tenderness of the heart. God feels for us when we hurt.

Jesus is "touched with the feelings of our infirmities" (areas we struggle with) (Heb. 4:15). He sympathizes with us.

Conclusion:

ILLUS: Hymn "It's just Like His Great Love" (P. 184).

Suffering seems so long.

ILLUS: Do you ever notice how long water takes to boil when you are looking at it?

Take your eyes off of your suffering (injustices) and put them on Christ's return and reward.

Jesus said, "Behold, I come quickly and my reward is with me . . ." (Rev. 22:12; cp. Is. 40:10)

We must remember to be patient! Col. 3:12 - "Clothe yourselves with . . . patience"

Moses' impatience robbed him of a trip to the Holy Land; Abraham's impatience led to the birth of Ishmael (the enemy of the Jews); and Peter's impatience almost made him a murderer (Wiersbe, p. 161).

When pressure comes, it's easy to run! It's easy to strike out against others!

We need to remember to look up! And remain patient.

I. The Lord's Return is Soon

II. The Lord's Reward is Sure!

Concl. Hymn - "It Will be Worth It All"