

## Be Patient; James 5:7-8

### I. Patience

#### A. This is not something we exhibit as a whole in our society

1. “Home layaway,” “Rent to own,” credit cards
2. Microwave ovens, “fast food”
3. Cars that go 200+ miles an hour
4. Veruca Salt from Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, “I want it NOW!”

#### B. This is something that we have to work on

#### C. I’m fairly certain that it does not come naturally

### II. Be Patient

#### A. Jacob and Esau

1. Genesis 25:29–34 (ESV); <sup>29</sup> Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. <sup>30</sup> And Esau said to Jacob, “Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!” (Therefore his name was called Edom.) <sup>31</sup> Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright now.” <sup>32</sup> Esau said, “I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?” <sup>33</sup> Jacob said, “Swear to me now.” So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.
2. Esau was a skilled hunter, a “man of the field” (verse 27)
  - a) Arctic Survival class in Fairbanks, Alaska
  - b) We were taught how to trap rabbits (and not moose), how to build a snow hut, how to build a signal fire, and many other things
  - c) Some of the people in the class were survival experts — they shaved every day, brushed their teeth, etc. — it was like it was nothing to them
  - d) It was the longest 3 days of my life!
  - e) When I got back to my dorm room in Anchorage I was HUNGRY!
3. “Despise” — to regard with contempt, considered it beneath his dignity <sup>1</sup>
4. Esau’s impatience had far ranging effects

#### B. Patient — to remain tranquil while waiting; to bear up under provocation without complaint <sup>2</sup>

1. James 5:9–11 (ESV); <sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.
2. I think that most of the time we can be patient while we wait for our car to be repaired, for our lunch to be brought to our table, but what about real tragedy?
3. James gives us an example in Job
4. Job 1:13-22; 2:7-10
5. Put yourself in Job’s shoes — I know Job was rich and lost a lot, but even those of us who don’t have much don’t want to lose what we do have
6. It becomes a matter of perspective — is it really mine? Or does it belong to God and He has given it to me to care for and use in service to Him
7. Luke 14:33 (ESV); So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

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<sup>1</sup> Ludwig Koehler et al., *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994–2000), 117.

<sup>2</sup> William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 612.

8. Renounce — to express a formal farewell; to give up interest in something <sup>3</sup>
  9. If we would only be able to formally say goodbye to all our ‘stuff,’ we would be so much better off!
- C. The Lord is coming so be patient
- III. Coming of the Lord
- A. “Until the coming of the Lord” (verse 7)
  - B. There are some commentaries that will say there was a teaching or thought that Jesus was coming back very soon
  - C. Others say that this refers to the coming of the Lord to destroy Jerusalem in 70 AD
    1. James wrote his letter in the 40s or 50s AD
    2. They were under Roman rule
    3. There were many uprisings of the zealots
    4. Rome was swiftly moving to squash all the rebellions (riots)
    5. Matthew 27:24 (ESV); So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”
    6. Acts 19:40 (ESV); For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion.”
    7. Acts 24:5 (ESV); For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.
    8. Luke 19:41–44 (ESV); <sup>41</sup> And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup> saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side <sup>44</sup> and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”
  - D. We are called to be patient in tribulation, even to our destruction or of those we love
- IV. Remain Steadfast
- A. This is where Revelation 2:10 finds its full meaning
  - B. Revelation 2:10 (ESV); Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.
  - C. Most people fear death
    1. We hear about many deathbed confessions
    2. Death in our family causes us to reevaluate our lives — to look at our own mortality
    3. The one thing we fear the most we should not fear at all!
  - D. God has delivered us from death!
    1. Hebrews 2:14–15 (ESV); <sup>14</sup> Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.
    2. Isaiah 25:8–9 (ESV); <sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. <sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”
  - E. Our only task is to remain steadfast, faithful

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<sup>3</sup> William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 123.

- F. “Establish your hearts” — to fix firmly in a place, to be inwardly firm or committed <sup>4</sup>
  - G. Merriam Webster’s defines committed as, “obligate, bind, or pledge oneself <sup>5</sup>
  - H. Whatever life throws at you, be patient, be steadfast, establish (obligate, bind) your heart to the Lord — it may not be easy, but it is the only way
  - I. There is no fast way through
  - J. Christianity is not a sprint, but a marathon
  - K. The tortoise and the hare — slow and steady wins the race
  - L. 2 Timothy 4:6–8 (ESV); <sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.
- V. A Virtue
- A. Being patient is not easy, it requires work and practice
  - B. Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV); <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
  - C. Be patient
  - D. Be steadfast
  - E. The Lord is coming!

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<sup>4</sup> William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 945.

<sup>5</sup> Inc Merriam-Webster, *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).