

## Living by Faith XII: James

“Through Patience”

James 5: 7-12

*Going Beyond* the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on November 5, 2017

### ***Entering In:***

*When someone tells you how much he is suffering,  
what will you tell him about suffering and the gospel?*

1. What is commanded in verse 7? Why? (see previous verses)

What are you facing today that requires patience, particularly towards others, as the word “patient” implies?

The Lord’s coming (*Parousia*) can refer either to Jesus’ second coming or to his daily presence in us. How can the Lord’s coming encourage your patience?

What does the example of a farmer imply about God and us, respectively?

2. Along with patience, what else are we exhorted to do (verse 8)?

How do you “strengthen your heart” in your times of trial?

The same verb “strengthening” (στηρίζω, *stērizō*) appears in Luke 9:51, where “Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.” What can you learn from Jesus’ attitude?

3. What attitude are we to have toward one another according to verse 9?

Why do you think God punishes those who grumble? (cf. Numbers 21:5-6)

Why does James forbid grumbling? (cf. 4:11-12)

What happens to those who grumble against each other?

How do you personally practice not blaming (complaining) about someone?

4. What can we learn from Job’s story in regarding to perseverance?

What attributes of God are revealed in Job’s story? How have you seen these in your life?

5. What is James' admonition in verse 12?

How can swearing be an evidence of impatience?

What is the main idea of each of the following verses from James?

- 1:19, 26
- 4:11
- 4:13-16
- 5:9

Based on this, to what does the word *all* (verse 12) refer?

What is it about *oath taking* that makes this exhortation paramount over all the other exhortations James has given about the way we speak?

6. Why do you think that oath taking is so important to the world?

Give one or two examples of abusing God's name.

What attribute of God should be reflected in our speech that would distinguish us from the world? (cf. Exodus 20:7; Matthew 6:9)

7. Choose an ending for each of the following statements that you think is consistent with James' teaching about *patience* in this passage. Why?

- A. When you suffer injustice because you are a Christian,
  - take comfort in the hope that Christ is returning soon.
  - you had better learn how to stick up for yourself.
- B. When the rich take advantage of you,
  - make sure that they know you resent them.
  - endure it graciously because Jesus will make all things right when he returns.
- C. When you suffer loss,
  - find someone to blame so you can sue them to recover your losses.
  - trust that the Lord will reward your perseverance in doing good.
- D. When you are discouraged by all the trouble in this world,
  - remember that soon it will all be over when Jesus returns.
  - try to focus on the good in people; be an optimist.

***Living It Out:***

*In what kind(s) of situations do you tend to become impatient?  
What must change before you will ever be able to be patient?  
Pray to be more patient in a situation where you are being tested.*