

PRACTICAL LESSONS TO LIVE BY

“Patience, My Brother!”

8/2/09

James 5:7-12

1. **WHEN** SHOULD I BE PATIENT?

A. When Circumstances are *Uncontrollable*.

“Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord’s return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring.” (v.7)

“To worry about something you can change is dumb; to worry about something you can’t change is useless.” (Unknown)

B. When People are *Unchangeable*.

“For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.” (v. 10)

“Macrothumos”: “It takes a long time for you to get hot!”

C. When Problems are *Unexplainable*.

“For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance.” (v. 11)

2. **WHY** SHOULD I BE PATIENT?

A. Because God’s Return is *Certain*.

“Be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.” (v. 8)

B. Because God is in *Control*.

“We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.” (v. 11)

C. Because God is Full of *Compassion*.

“For the Lord is full of tenderness (compassion) and mercy.” (v. 11c)

“God is at work in you.” (Phil. 2:13)

3. ***WHAT*** SHOULD I DO WHILE I WAIT?

A. Wait *Expectantly*.

“I wait expectantly, trusting God to help, for He has promised.” (Psalm 130:5 LB)

“According to your faith it will be done unto you.” (Mat. 20:9)

“”The Lord says...No one who waits for my help will be disappointed.” (Isaiah 49:23)

B. Wait *Quietly*.

“Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged.” (v. 9)

“But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.” (v. 17)

C. Wait *Confidently*.

“Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.” (v. 8)