

Faith That Works
PATIENTLY ENDURES
12/2/07



Text: James 5:7-11

“⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, 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.” (ESV)

As we round third in our series, James emphasizes two more ingredients of an effective “Faith that Works.” It displays a spirit of endurance and it prays....a lot!

FARMERS – v.7 (8-9)

Cross References: *“In due season we will reap, if we do not give up”* (Galatians 6:9) *“The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come”* (Mark 4:28-29).

The patience being promoted here is not passive. It involves action.

PROPHETS – v.10-11a

The prophets suffered not because they did anything wrong, but because they were doing *right*, they *spoke in the name of the Lord*.

JOB – v.11b

When you find yourself in the furnace, go to the throne of grace and receive from the Lord all the grace you need to endure (Hebrews 4:14-16). Remind yourself that the Lord has a gracious purpose in all of this suffering, and that He will work out His purposes in His time and for His glory.

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