

Maintain Patient Faithfulness – Part 2

#17 in series “Doing What We Believe”

(A Study in the Book of James)

James 5:7-12

1. A Call for Patience :7-8, 10-11

A clear command to be patient :7a

Illustrations of patience

• **Farmers :7b**

• **Prophets and Job :10-11**

The motivation for patience

The means to patience

2. A Call to be Guarded :9

⁹ Do not complain (Lit *groan*), brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

- We should “bridle” our tongues (control them) 1:26

James 1:26 (NASB) “If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man’s religion is worthless.”

- We have been warned about its destructive power 3:5

James 3:5 (NASB) “So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!”

- And we lack the ability to “tame” our tongues ourselves 3:8

James 3:8 (NASB) “But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.”

James 4:11a (NASB) “Do not speak against one another, brethren...”

Dr. B. Gray Allison – “The world seethes and boils with hatred, bloodshed, and the lust for power. The world is torn and embittered, sick and suffering, confused and bewildered. Man lives his days in the dominion of darkness rather than in the kingdom of light. He walks in darkness and does not know where he is going.” (1984. “The Soul-Winner's Milieu”)

(Numbers 14:2, 11, 22-29)

⁹ Do not complain (Lit *groan*), brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

John 6:43 (NASB) “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Do not grumble among yourselves.’”

Phil. 2:14 (NASB) “Do all things without grumbling or disputing”

Jon Bloom – “When we complain, it is frequently evil. But complaining is not necessarily evil.

There’s a faithful (believing) way to complain and a faithless (unbelieving) way to complain.”

Psalm 142:1-2 (NASB)

¹ I cry aloud with my voice to the Lord;
I make supplication with my voice to the Lord.

² I pour out my complaint before Him;

I declare my trouble before Him.

- Sorrow (Psalm 137)
- Anger (Psalm 140)
- Fear (Psalm 69)
- Longing (Psalm 85)
- Confusion (Psalm 102)
- Desolation (Psalm 22)
- Repentance (Psalm 51)
- Disappointment (Psalm 74)
- Depression (Psalm 88)

James 5:11 (NASB) "...the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful."

Psalm 142:2 (NASB) "I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare my trouble before Him.

Jon Bloom – "The psalms of lament are treasures for the saints. They give inspired voice to our troubled souls. They model for us how to complain to God in a way that honors him. And they are themselves expressions of God's merciful care for us, because in them we see that we are not as alone as we feel, and that God indeed does understand."

John 16:33 (NASB) "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

⁹ Do not complain (Lit *groan*), brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

3. A Call to Honesty **:12**

¹² But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no (Lit *yours is to be yes, yes, and no, no*), so that you may not fall under judgment.

Matthew 5:34-37 (NASB)

³⁴ But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.

Eph. 4:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ.