

Created to Dream

Part Three- Faith That Handles Delays Patiently

October 22, 2023

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. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look-the Judge is standing at the door!

For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the lord.

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. (James 5:7-11, New Living Translation)

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness... (Galatians 5:22, NLT)

WHEN IS BEING PATIENT AN ACT OF FAITH?

- **When our CIRCUMSTANCES are uncontrollable.**

For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the lord. (James 5:10, NLT)

- **When the TRUTH is unpopular.**
- **When our pain is unbearable and unexplainable.**

Look how rich he is! But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face! (Job 1:10 NLT)

Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. (Job 1:20 NLT)

Though he slay me, I will hope in Him... (Job 13:15, NLT)

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHILE I'M WAITING?

Remember that:

- **GOD is in control.**

...be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. (James 5:7, NLT)

Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near... (James 5:8, NLT)

For look-the Judge is standing at the door! (James 5:9, NLT)

- **God rewards patience.**

We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. (James 5:11 NLT)

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9, English Standard Version)

- **God is ALWAYS working behind the scenes.**

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. (James 5:11, NLT)

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. (Philippians 2:13 NLT)

For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11, NLT)

HOW DO I TRUST GOD WHEN WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR IS BEING DELAYED?

- **We need to wait EXPECTANTLY.**
- **We need to wait without complaining.**
- **We wait CONFIDENTLY.**

I wait confidently for God to save, and my God will certainly hear me. (Micah 7:7, NLT)