

Session # 8: James 5:7-12

Small Group Questions

1. Patience isn't injected by heavenly hypodermic. It must be developed in the struggle of life (it is a *fruit*, not a *gift* of the Holy Spirit). How has God been helping you develop patience?
2. Have you ever done any gardening or growing? What kind of patience is involved with that?
3. The biblical word for patience might best be translated "long-suffering." That suffering can be productive or destructive. Can you think of examples from your life when suffering was either
4. How does the Second Coming of Christ help you to be patient (verse 8)? How would you explain that to someone outside of the Christian faith?
5. Can you think of specific prophets who exemplified patience in the face of suffering? Do their experiences speak to any of yours?
6. James talks about Job as one who persevered (one who suffered long), and then says that those who persevere are blessed. Was Job blessed? How do future blessings help you to endure present sufferings?
7. The word *persevered* literally means "remained under." Why does James use that word here? What's he getting at?
8. Why does James say that grumbling (verse 9) and swearing (verse 12) are opposed to patience (long suffering) and perseverance (remaining under)?
9. Patience doesn't mean passive. Can you think of a time when you were submitted to God, but nonetheless very active and assertive?
10. How does Jesus both exemplify this text, and empower us to live it out ourselves (see Hebrews 12:1-3)

Close in prayer together. During this season of Lent, focus on how God can use your suffering and trials to make you more like Christ.