

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, August 28, 2016
“Faith that Works: The Letter of James ~ Patient Endurance”
James 5:7-11

“...May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.” (Colossians 1:9-12)

IMPATIENCE TRIGGERS

- _____: Nothing seems to test our patience like those _____ to us.
- _____. Things like:
- _____: Sometimes people we don't even know can do things that trigger our impatience.

TWO BIBLICAL IMAGES FOR PATIENCE

- _____ or having a long _____.
- “You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.” (James 1:19)

“Patience is better than pride. Don't be quick tempered for anger is the friend of fools.” (Ecclesiastes 7:8)

- _____ or _____.
- “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation...” (Romans 5:3-4)

“Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.” (Hebrews 10:36)

WHY PATIENCE IS IMPORTANT

- Patience and _____ are connected.
- “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude...” (I Corinthians 13:4)

“Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.” (Ephesians 4:2)

- Patience is linked to _____.
- “For when your faith is tested your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed you'll be strong in character and ready for anything.” (James 1:3)

REASONS FOR IMPATIENCE

- _____. We cram so much stuff into our schedules, there's little _____ or breathing room.
- _____. Those we put on ourselves or other people, both realistic and unrealistic that, for whatever reason, were not _____.
- _____. Behind this is _____ and it isn't easy to be patient with others when we're focusing on ourselves.

THREE REASONS WHY WE NEED TO HAVE PATIENCE

Reason #1: Patience is evident in _____.
“The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship.” (Psalm 19:1)

God reveals Himself in and through His _____.

“They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.” (Romans 1:18-20)

Not only does God reveal Himself through creation, He also uses creation to teach us about the deeper _____ of life.

“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.” (James 5:7-8)

Parousia =

In His second Advent, Jesus will come as _____—as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding

shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever." (1Thessalonians 4:16-18)

We think of patience as being a _____ thing, however, for the farmer, patience is an _____ thing.

Just as the farmer waits for his crop, we _____ wait for the Lord's return by doing the work of His _____.

"No one knows the day or the hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. And since you don't know when the time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!" (Mark 13:32)

What are you doing? How patiently are you waiting for Jesus' return?

Reason #2. Patience has _____ consequences.

"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!" (James 5:8-9)

Be patient = *makrothymeo* =

Take courage or ' _____ ' our hearts = *sterizo* =

It literally means 'to _____ up to _____ collapse.'

When James commands us to take courage and establish our hearts, he's telling us to courageously _____. He's telling us to stubbornly _____ in our hearts to patiently wait on the Lord; to patiently work hard to prop up our heart and keep it from _____ because of fear, anxiety, or lack of hope and to trust that God will come through.

"I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God..." (Psalm 40:1-3)

The fact that Jesus is coming again is the hope that we can prop our hearts and lives on to keep them from collapsing—it's the _____ that we can hook our anchor to.

We can patiently establish our heart on the fact that Jesus is coming soon. Or we can take our eyes off Jesus and put them on _____. We do this when we remove Jesus as the _____ of judgment and make our selves the standard.

Are you patiently establishing your heart on that fact that Jesus is coming soon? Or are you impatiently judging one person against another?

Reason #3. Patience has a _____.
Holy impatience =

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us." (Hebrews 12:1)

"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 honour 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 5:10-11)

The kind of patience that James is highlighting here is patience in the face of _____.

**How is your patience this morning?
Are you always in a hurry—even when God isn't?
Have you learned to wait on God?**

Although we can be impatient, God's patience with us is _____.

"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." (Psalm 145:8)

God is willing to wait as long as it takes for us to _____ with Him, and allow the _____ to nurture and grow patience within us.

**How will Jesus find you when He returns?
Will you be patiently trusting in Him?**