

The 4th Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 19, 2023

“Cross Training: Training in Patience”

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)

Patience is one of those attributes that you can't learn simply by reading about it. It's a quality that can only be _____ by persistent, enduring _____—by intentionally working our patience muscle.

IMPATIENCE TRIGGERS

- _____: Nothing seems to test our patience more than other _____.
- _____: 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)

- _____ 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)

Patience is an important quality that can help us to deal _____ with the issues of everyday living. However, it's also a Christian virtue, and is included in Paul's list of the _____ of the Spirit in Galatians 5.

WHY PATIENCE IS IMPORTANT

- **It is connected to _____.**

“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)

- **The Christian life is all about _____.**

“If we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.” (Romans 8:25)

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, are not _____.
- _____: It isn't easy to be patient with others when we're _____ on ourselves.

THREE REASONS WHY WE NEED TO DEVELOP PATIENCE

Reason #1: Patience is evident in _____.

“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)

God's created order can teach us about the deeper _____ of life, such as what it means to be patient.

Parousia =

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

We live and run our race in this _____ time—between Jesus' first and second coming. And although His return is _____, James uses the image of the farmer to teach about the kind of patience that's required, as we watch and wait for the Lord.

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 _____.

**What kingdom work has God called you to?
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* =

James doesn't provide any _____ or wiggle room here. With all the force of Scripture, we're commanded to be patient—to be long-suffering and to run our race with _____.

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.

We don't know what the future holds. However, we do know _____ holds the future. Jesus is our _____, and everything holds together in Him.

This fact 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.

Jesus is coming soon. Are you patiently establishing your heart on that fact?

Reason #3. Patience has a _____.

Holy impatience =

“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 _____.

Men and women who have patiently suffered, bled, and died for the cause of Christ, who are not only standing on the side lines _____ us on as we run the race, but also serve as witnesses and _____ to us.

**Are you always in a hurry—even when God isn't?
Have you learned to wait on God?**

CONCLUSION

“...endurance without murmuring...” = Instead of _____, I need to use the delay as an opportunity to quench the inner fumes and work on my patience!

“...a Christian submission to the divine will...” = These circumstances are always opportunities to _____ in patience, to learn to submit to God's providential _____, and often, to minister in some special or unique way.

The Lord is training us in _____, which is always moving towards perfect _____. There is still so much work that needs to be done in the world before Jesus' return; and so, God wants to work this quality into our characters now, to perfect our love, in order to _____ the world around us for His glory!

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