

DEVO 9

MADE TO BE PATIENT

“Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient.

Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

James 5:7-8

Patience is the art of waiting peacefully. Waiting is a word that evokes fear in some people, anger in others. One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is that believers will be patient. Overwhelmingly patience in Scripture is found in two different contexts. Being patient with God and being patient with each other.

God is working in this world. He is working in our lives, the lives of other believers, and maybe most importantly, the lives of those that do not yet believe in Him. As we get frustrated with the status of this World and things that don't go our way, we must continually be reminded that God is forming all things to Himself. Practicing patience as we wait for God to finish His work is not in vain.

James also reminds us that we should be patient while we await the Lord's coming. He is coming back! While we may feel disheartened by his delay, our hearts should be hopeful knowing that he does not desire any to perish, and his return will mark a decisive end to our ability to choose Him. Let us rejoice as he finishes calling His children home so that His house will be full.

The other call for patience is with our brothers and sisters. People will disappoint us. They will let us down. Do we retreat into solitude because of other's imperfections? No. We continuously give them the 'benefit of the doubt' as we recognize that the Holy Spirit is working within them just like He is working within us. We remember that in our journey we hurt and disappointed others. As we may struggle being patient with others, may we be glad that others have been patient with us. And most importantly, that our Savior has been infinitely patient with us.

PRAYER FOCUS:

Thank you God for patience. Thank you that you have been patient with us, that other humans have been patient with us, and that we would be patient with others. Give us opportunities to display Christian character through our patience and help us to never complain regardless of circumstance. Come Lord Jesus, come.

OTHER VERSES FOR STUDY:

Romans 8:18-25 | Psalm 37:7-9 | Ephesians 4:1-3