

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

### BE PATIENT

James 5:7-8 “Be patient, therefore, brothers, 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.”

One of the many strategies of the Devil in his attempts to cause you to sin, rebel against God and lose faith and confidence in God’s promises is to distract you from your faith in Jesus and eternal life with all of the little things that happen in your daily life. He wants you to focus on the difficulties, trials and tribulations you experience in the here-and-now, rather than to keep your eye on the ultimate goal of heaven promised to you by God through the Gospel.

James exhorts you to be patient, patiently waiting for the return of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He wants you to keep your eyes on heaven, your ultimate destination. He reminds you, “the coming of the Lord is at hand.” (verse 8) Likewise, Jesus instructed, “. . . you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Matthew 24:44)

The Greek word for patience means “holding out under trial.” Patience is a “long-protracted restraint from yielding to the stresses and passions of the here and now.” A Greek to English dictionary, defined patience as “brave patience with which the Christian contends against the various hindrances, persecutions, and temptations with which he must deal both inwardly and outwardly.” (Word Pictures Dictionary.)

Practically speaking, these two verses of James address those times when you are inclined to be critical and grumpy about what is happening in your life or because of something that has upset you with a brother or sister in Christ. At these times “patience” is needed remembering he or she is a brother or sister in Christ and the current difficulties are momentary. Sharing in the love of God through Christ Jesus is far greater than anything negative that is happening in your life.

Peter emphasizes that “The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and sober mind so that you may pray?” (1 Peter 4:7) St. Paul exhorts, “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” (Romans

13:14) Keep your eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of your life. (Hebrews 12:2)

Prayer: Grant me, O Lord, a heart filled with faith to trust you whereby I endure patiently through this life until You grant me the crown of everlasting life. Amen.

Be still, my soul, before the Lord, For God is always near.  
Before your mind is moved to pray, God listens and will hear.

You need not multiply your words Nor pry with practiced art.  
Beyond all speech, God understands The hunger of your heart.

Wait, the, in quiet confidence, Your anxious thoughts at rest.  
God knows your needs before you ask And works for what is best.

Be still, my soul, before the Lord; On God in patience wait.  
God's love, unseen, surrounds your life; God's help will not be late.  
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