

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – June 19, 2022

Theme: James: Faith in Action Topic: Walking in Patience

Main Text: James 5:7-12

Key verse: James 5:8– “*You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.*” (NIV)

INTRODUCTION: We come to the subject of patience. And in moving from oppression (James 5:1-6), to the subject of patience (James 5:7-12), James starts with, ‘*Therefore.*’ This is indicative of a connection between the two. The Cambridge Dictionary defines patience as ‘the ability to wait, or to continue doing something despite difficulties, or to suffer without complaining or becoming annoyed. In the New Testament, the word *patience* has two connotations: The first has to do with difficult circumstances as in James 1:3, 4, and means “to stay the course or to endure.” The other has to do with how we relate to others, referring to the patience in bearing the offenses and injuries of others without losing it (Ephesians 4:1-2). Though patience is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and accepted by all as a virtue, the reality of everyday life makes the practice of patience, easier said than done. A recalcitrant child or maid, or the commercial bus driver who shunts in front of us in traffic, could easily trigger aggressive impatient behavior from us.

1. **Read Matthew 5:11-12; Romans 12:12; James 1:2-4; 5:7-9. (a) How does it make you feel to realize that God, through James is asking believers who were being persecuted and oppressed to be patient? (b) James 1:2 invites believers to “count it all joy when you fall into various trials.” Why do you think patience seems to be associated with trials and temptations and difficulties? (c) Let participants share examples of some situations which have tried your faith and how those have worked patience in your life.**

Trials and temptations are part of God’s building blocks for working patience in us. Patience and waiting are like two sides of the same coin. In Colossians 3:12, believers are admonished to “*persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.*” Our key verse says, “*Stablish your hearts*”. Establish our hearts is a call to endurance, to roll up our sleeves, because this patience is for the long haul if we must attain the perfected character. This perfection is worked by patience. 1 Corinthians 13:4a says love is patient and kind. We can see clearly that a heart that is patient will grow in love and kindness. These are traits which are foundational for other traits like compassion and goodness

2. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:4; James 5:8-9 (a) Discuss how the working of patience is a key to dealing with trials and relationship difficulties. (b) As people waiting for the Lord, how does patience help us live in a world of competition and strife? (c) How can this kind of patience improve relationships with our spouse, children, extended family, and friends?**

Waiting is a lot easier when we know its duration. But the waiting God calls the believer to is unlike the farmer’s waiting which is only for a season. This waiting is until the Lord returns (James 5:8). This sounds like a lifetime call to patience. And rightly so because what we are waiting for is far more glorious than the crops of a farmer or some other temporal laurel. To help us see that this life of patience is not for superhumans, we are reminded of others who had walked this life of patience before us. The Merriam Webster dictionary definition of ‘walk’ includes, to pursue a course of action or way of life, to continue in something. An example is Job. Abraham, Joseph, Daniel, are other examples of Biblical characters who through their trials and troubles, walked in patience. But unlike these Biblical examples, today’s believers do not have the patience to stay on the fire to be roasted (cooked) properly to perfection. But as it is written, our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all (2 Corinthians 4:17).

3. **(a) According to James 5:11b, what lesson about God do we learn from Job’s example that can help in our walking in patience and waiting for God? (b) What does Romans 8:28 teach us about walking in patience? (c) In the light of Hebrews 6:12 and 1 Peter 1:7, how should you view that situation which seems to be testing your patience? Please discuss.**

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you that in the end, all things will work out for our good. Please help us to be encouraged by this to walk in patience. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.