

Introduction

Sometimes, it's hard to be patient. It's even harder when you are in the midst of suffering. How can a Christian live with an unshakeable hope in the midst of many difficult days? James reminds us as readers that we can live with hope by looking to the end when Christ will sit on His throne and rule as the judge.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Be patient for the harvest. ([5:7-9](#))
- II. Be steadfast for the blessing. ([5:10-12](#))

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [5:7-9](#)

Farmers work hard, but in the end, they have to be patient for the harvest. How would you rate your patience and hope that the Lord will indeed come back? Don't mistake waiting as a passive thing we do to pass the time. In order to wait patiently we must establish our hearts. To establish our hearts means to strengthen our hearts in the Lord. We all have those 'shortcuts' our hearts run to (TV, social media, food, shopping, etc.) that feel good up front but cannot *strengthen* our hearts the way we need. What do you typically try to establish your heart with? Remember the promise that if we draw near to God He promises to draw near to you. Waiting in trials and losing hope can often lead to doubt, but in Christ, you will outlast every trial you face, so stand firm. Take heart, because the coming of the Lord is the next event in salvation history.

Not only are we to guard our hearts, we must guard our fellowship. Trials can cause dissatisfaction in our hearts and they can boil over into our brothers and sisters in Christ. Have you been tempted to grumble against a brother or sister in Christ during this waiting (v9)? We are in this together - the church isn't a social club, it's a family, the household of God, and the bride of Christ ([1 Tim. 5:1-2](#), [1 Tim. 3:15](#)). What's that look like? Family prays for one another, encourages one another and strengthens each other by pointing each other to Christ and His grace to sustain us until He returns.

Additional Reading: [1 Timothy 3:2](#), [Psalm 62:8](#)

2) Read [5:10-12](#)

James' command does not mean we shouldn't take an oath in court or vows to get married. Paul and Jesus both testified under oath. James' concern is an oath that make us look committed but include carefully worded loopholes to get out of our commitments when the going gets tough (compare with [Matthew 5:33-37](#)). This means we should be careful to keep our word. Are you keeping your marriage covenant? What about your church covenant?

Have you ever wondered what it looks like to be blessed in the Christian life? Here, James talks about remaining steadfast until the end. Do you think these prophets James speaks of who are sawn in two should be considered blessed? When pain lingers a long time, we are tempted to think the worst about God and question his goodness. If that's where you're at, run to God with such concerns – reach out to a brother or sister for help and encouragement. As Job came to learn – our joy and contentment depend on seeing God rightly. Our God is full of compassion and mercy. All of God's purposes come from a heart that's full of compassion and mercy. We can trust God even in the dark.

Are you living in expectancy of God's goodness in the coming of the Lord? When hope is under attack, look to the end when all is made new. God has made the end clear in order to strengthen our hope today. Be strengthened church, wait upon the Lord.

Additional Reading: [Revelation 21](#), [John 15:19](#), [The Book of Job](#), [John 3:16](#)

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to James 5:13-20 "Pray for One Another"
--