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## SERMON NOTES August 23, 2020

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Today's notes also available at [CCPL.life/Connect](http://CCPL.life/Connect)

### James 5:7-11 Faith to be Patient Pastor Mike

- I. Our need for \_\_\_\_\_ when we can't \_\_\_\_\_
- a. This patience grows from \_\_\_\_\_ in several truths
- i. God is both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. The \_\_\_\_\_ is coming where he will \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. God's \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_
- II. The challenge of \_\_\_\_\_ in times of waiting
- Can we believe God's \_\_\_\_\_ when we don't see his \_\_\_\_\_
- III. The \_\_\_\_\_ of faith in times of waiting
- a. Be \_\_\_\_\_; trust in \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Don't \_\_\_\_\_; Resist the urge to try to \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Be \_\_\_\_\_; Persevere in doing \_\_\_\_\_
- IV. The \_\_\_\_\_ driving our patience; Our confidence in \_\_\_\_\_

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. We live in an instant culture, with instant relief to pain, instant gratification, instant answers, instant communication, etc. How does this cultural value and expectation impact our faith in God?
  - a. James uses the illustration of farming to illustrate the importance of patience. We are not farmers, but what in your life are things that you cannot control that you are forced to wait on for an extended period of time? How do you deal with that waiting process?
  - b. What are ways that you are forced to wait on God, and to be patient for his timing? How does living in our “instant culture” impact your ability to wait on God?
2. In many areas of faith God promises to work, but also calls us to be patient, suggesting that His plan is often not in our timing. Can you think of times in your past where God answered your prayer, but took far longer than you hoped or expected?
  - a. How did you feel during that time of waiting?
  - b. Now looking back at the experience, is there anything that God taught you through the time he made you wait?
  - c. Are there lessons you learned from that experience that you can apply to current or future times of waiting? How difficult do you find it to apply these past lessons to current challenges?
3. This passage in James 5 calls us to have the patience of a farmer, who is patient through the process of seeing the crop grow. However, in the farmers case, this patience is in no way passive; he has to work while he waits. Is the patience God calls us to active or passive? If it is active, what are we called to do while we wait?
4. As an application of this call to be patient, James 5:9 calls us to not grumble against one another. How is grumbling an expression of being impatient with God? How do you apply this teaching to your own life?
5. Pastor Mike referred to Romans 12:19-21 as a parallel passage to what James is teaching here in James 5. What is taught in Romans 12, and how does it relate to and expound on James’ teaching in James 5?
6. While the Bible clearly calls us to be focused on the return of Christ, the history of the church tells us that practically it has been the difficulties of life that focus our hope on Christ’s return. On commentator on our current culture wrote, “Life is too comfortable and things too important for us to want to leave this world, making it hard for us really to be driven by a driving desire for eternity.”
  - a. How do you feel about this statement? Why do you agree or disagree?
  - b. If this is true, how does it impact of reaction to trials and to people who mistreat us?
  - c. If the comfort and prosperity our life in 21<sup>st</sup> century America makes it hard to really be driven by a driving desire for eternity, how can we who live in this time increase our focus on the promised return of Christ.