



# ACTIVATING FAITH

THE BOOK OF JAMES

1. In what area of your life are you struggling to demonstrate patience? Is there a particular person with whom you find it difficult to be patient?

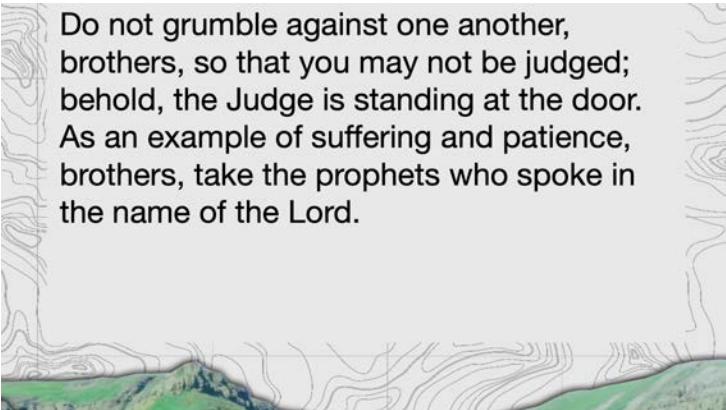
2. How does your impatience manifest itself: Anger? Annoyance? Sarcasm? Judgment? Discontentment?

3. What's the underlying reason for your impatience: Pride? Control? Comfort? Fear? Selfishness? Distrust?

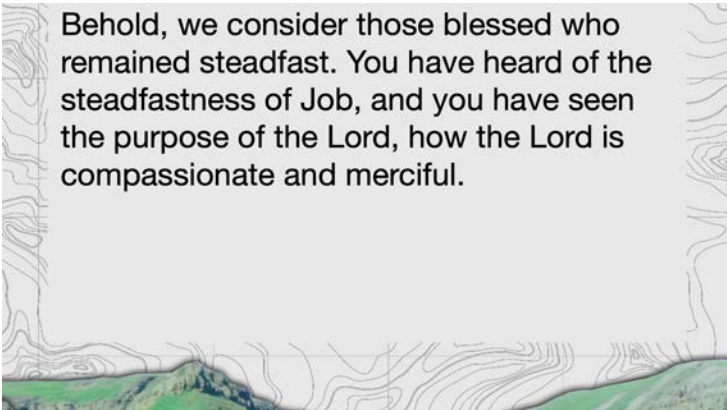
Activating faith results in a non-anxious, non-reactive, patient presence that endures suffering and hardship with steadfastness and hope.

### James 5:7-11

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.



Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.



Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.



Patience:

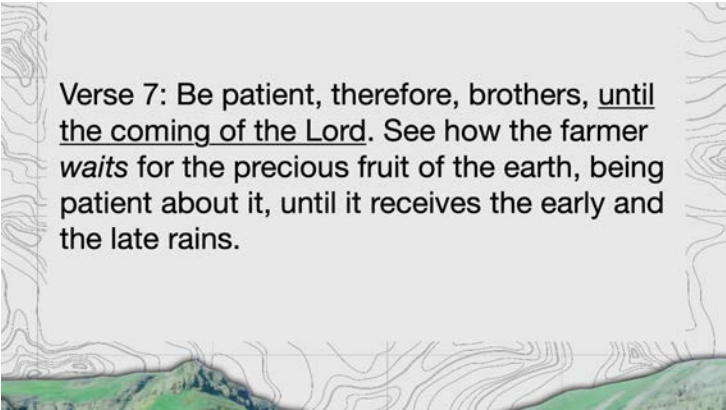
1. What it entails
2. What to watch out for
3. What to remember



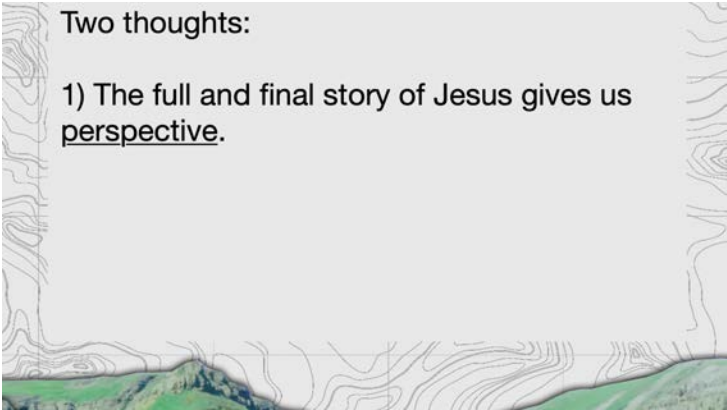
Patience:

1. What it entails:

Waiting with the full and final story of Jesus in mind.

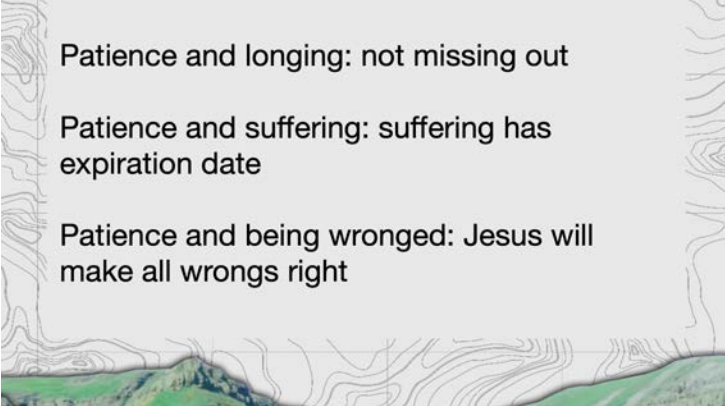


Verse 7: Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer *waits* for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.



Two thoughts:

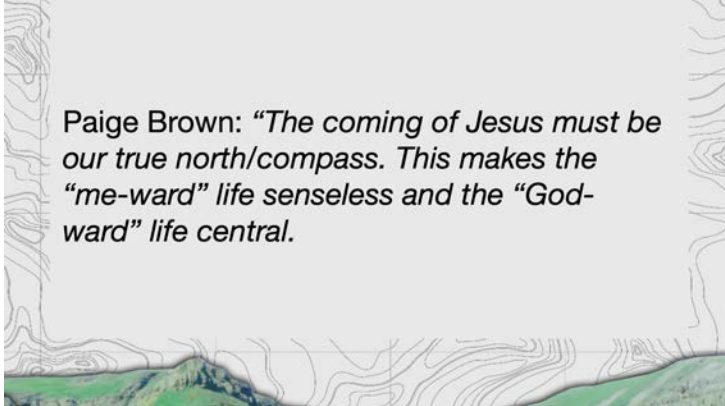
- 1) The full and final story of Jesus gives us perspective.



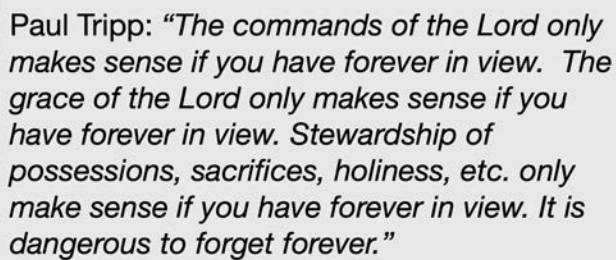
Patience and longing: not missing out

Patience and suffering: suffering has expiration date

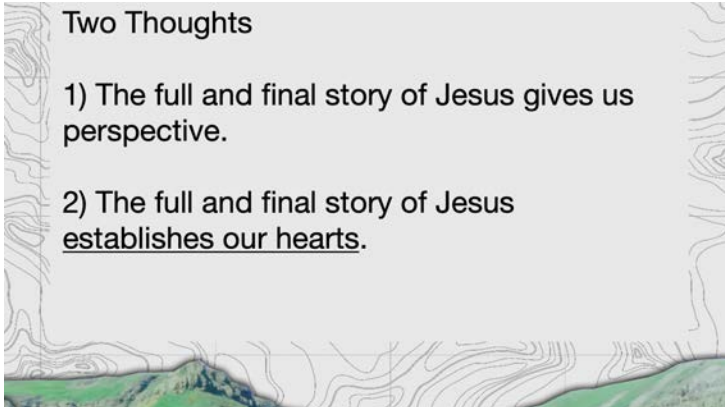
Patience and being wronged: Jesus will make all wrongs right



Paige Brown: *"The coming of Jesus must be our true north/compass. This makes the "me-ward" life senseless and the "God-ward" life central.*

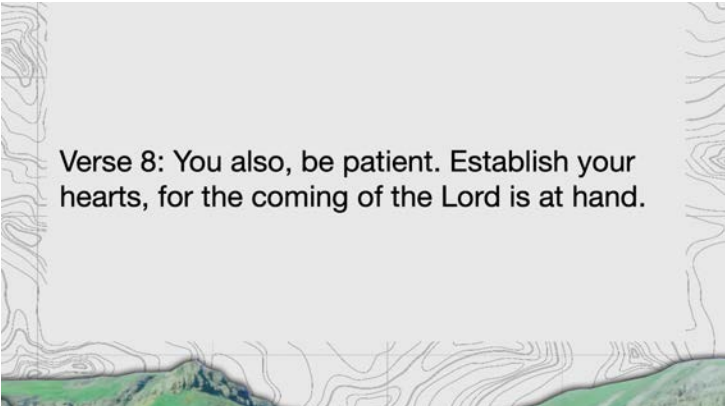


Paul Tripp: *"The commands of the Lord only makes sense if you have forever in view. The grace of the Lord only makes sense if you have forever in view. Stewardship of possessions, sacrifices, holiness, etc. only make sense if you have forever in view. It is dangerous to forget forever."*

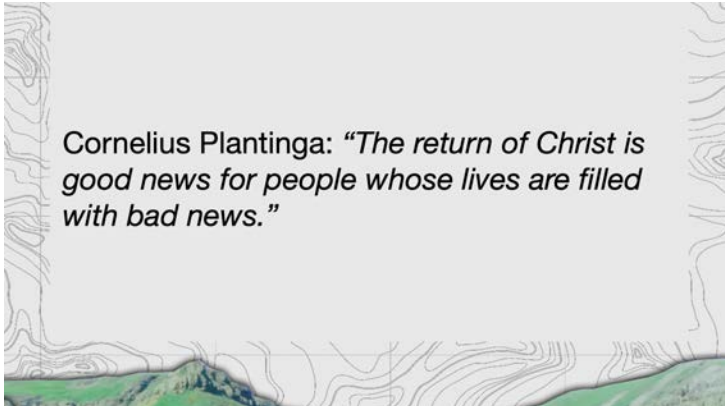


#### Two Thoughts

- 1) The full and final story of Jesus gives us perspective.
- 2) The full and final story of Jesus establishes our hearts.



Verse 8: You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.



Cornelius Plantinga: *"The return of Christ is good news for people whose lives are filled with bad news."*

Patience:

2. What to watch out for:

Grumbling.

Verse 9: Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

*Paul Tripp: "If you embrace the theology of the sovereignty of God, then you have to say that every moment of grumbling is in fact grumbling against God. You've never had a neutral grumble in your life! It is deeply theological; it evidences a dissatisfaction with the sovereign plan of God in your life."*

Who have you grumbled against and sinned against God?

Colossians 3:12-13: Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Jon Tyson:

- a) Name these people
- b) Hold them before God
- c) Ask for grace to forgive

Patience:

3. What to remember:

Steadfastness is rooted in God's compassion and mercy

Verses 10-11: As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained **steadfast**. You have heard of the **steadfastness** of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, **how the Lord is compassionate and merciful**.

Compassion: "the sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it."

Compassion: Com (with) Pati (suffering) = "suffering with"

Compassion gets involved, it is action oriented.

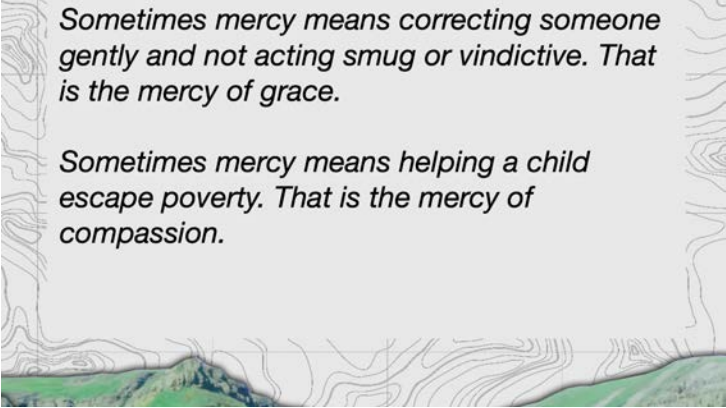
Frederick Buechner: "*Compassion is sometimes the fatal capacity for feeling what it is like to live inside somebody else's skin. It is the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you too.*"

Mercy: the compassionate treatment of those in distress, especially when it is within one's power to punish or harm them.

*Mercy makes room for others.*

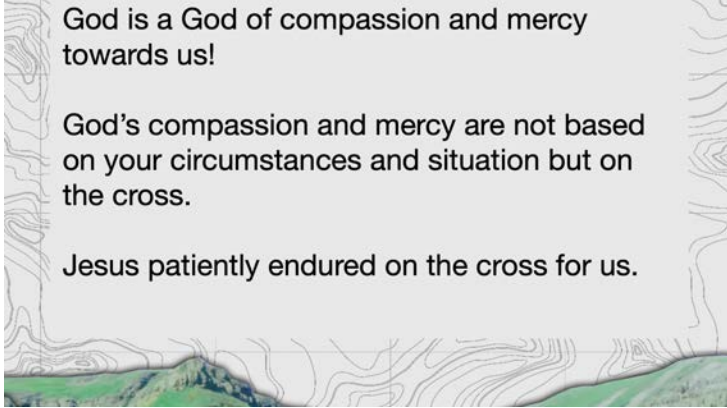
*Sometimes mercy means choosing not to complain to the restaurant manager when the service you received was lacking. That is the mercy of kindness.*

*Sometimes mercy means not making it difficult for the person who offended you to apologize. That is the mercy of forgiveness.*



*Sometimes mercy means correcting someone gently and not acting smug or vindictive. That is the mercy of grace.*

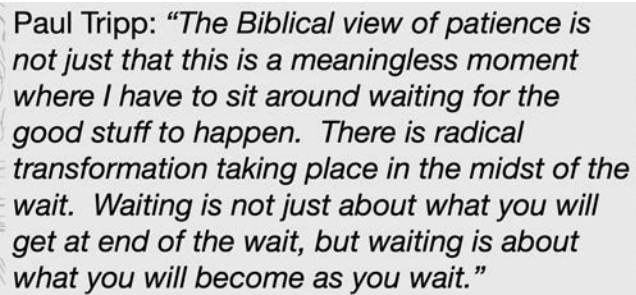
*Sometimes mercy means helping a child escape poverty. That is the mercy of compassion.*



God is a God of compassion and mercy towards us!

God's compassion and mercy are not based on your circumstances and situation but on the cross.

Jesus patiently endured on the cross for us.



Paul Tripp: *"The Biblical view of patience is not just that this is a meaningless moment where I have to sit around waiting for the good stuff to happen. There is radical transformation taking place in the midst of the wait. Waiting is not just about what you will get at end of the wait, but waiting is about what you will become as you wait."*



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