

Faith in Real Life 13:

Honest, realistic and practical words about faith from the epistle of James

“Patience & Integrity” (10/1/17)

James 5:7-12

Two additional character traits of mature believers:

1) Patience in times of suffering (5:7-11)

- a) The word **patient** is a compound word that is usually translated “long-suffering.” Long-suffering is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger, and is associated with mercy. (Vines Expository Dictionary)
- b) Three examples of patience:
 - i) The patience of the farmer (5:7-8)
 - ii) The patience of the prophets (5:10)
 - iii) The patience of Job (5:11b)
(1) Job’s responses: (Job 1:22; 2:10; 13:15; 19:25)
- c) James reminds us that no matter what we’re going through, God is **compassionate and merciful**.

2) Integrity in making commitments (v. 12)

- a) The command, *do not swear* refers to making an oath, not the use of profane language.
- b) James restates Jesus’ admonition to be a man or woman of integrity who can be counted on to keep their word in stating *let your yes be yes and your no be no*.

Conclusions

- 1) James encourages us to trust in God and be patient in times of suffering as we await the harvest like the farmer; to persevere and be a witness amidst hardship like the prophets, to wait upon the Lord to fulfill His purposes and draw near to Him like Job and to remember God’s incredible love, compassion, and mercy for his people.
- 2) There is no reason for believers to make oaths in order to guarantee the truth of what we say.

Next Steps

- 1) Practice being patient and longsuffering which means enduring injuries inflicted by others and being willing to accept irritating or painful situations without grumbling or having a desire for revenge or retribution.
- 2) Be a person of integrity who can be counted on to keep their word without exception.