

BUILT DIFFERENT

July 20, 2025 // Adam Davidson + Spencer Olson

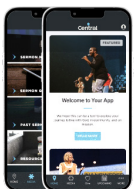
BIG IDEA:

Patience is the result of actively trusting God.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

James 5:7-20
John 5:19

1. Why is it that all humans struggle with patience and at what age does our impatience show up?
2. Take some time to study Galatians 5:16-26, where the Apostle Paul talks about the Fruit of the Spirit -- a list of characteristics Christ followers are called to possess, grow in, and practice. Note that patience is a fruit of the Spirit, which James calls us to have (5:7-11). Compare the life that Paul is calling us to in Galatians with the natural tendencies of the flesh and consider the following:
 - » The battle between our flesh nature and the new nature we have in Jesus
 - » The way that the Holy Spirit changes us from the inside
 - » The “don’t be like this” list and how impatience might play a role in each
 - » The interplay between patience and the other fruits listed. For example, how does patience affect our capacity for Christ-like love? What about peace? Does impatience affect our peace? Obviously the answer is yes... but why?
3. Our patience (or lack) is amplified by a sense of injustice toward fellow humans. How does God answer this issue in Psalm 37 and how is this supported in James 5:1-6?
4. James is writing to a people who were oppressed. Naturally, they called out to the Lord and had to wonder (as we often do) why God isn’t changing their circumstances -- thus, their (and our) lack of patience. They knew that the return of the Lord would bring justice, and their hope was in His imminent return. Here we are, 2,000 years later, and still waiting. Yet, Jesus will come again -- it may even happen before you read the end of this question! How do we hold on together as brothers and sisters, and how do we encourage each other as the brokenness of this world persists? What could we do today in the name of Jesus to bring an end to the injustice we see in our own backyard?
5. James really wants us to pray. Why? What difference does prayer make? You and I may know the answer to this, but what would you say to a new believer about the purpose of prayer? Or to your kids/grandkids?
6. Christ followers believe in the power of prayer to bring healing. Sometimes God heals, and sometimes He does not. What role does faith play in prayer, and how do we balance our will with the will of the Father in healing the sick?



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7. James attributes healing to the work of God. Yet, we are called to summon Elders, pray, and anoint. It's not that He needs our "help", but He does call us to pray in faith. Why is it that God would want the local church involved with this kind of ministry?
8. Throughout the epistle, James uses the word adelphoi (ἀδελφοί) to describe the people of God—the local church—as brothers and sisters. Whether we're talking about patience, prayer, healing, or confession of sin, we're constantly reminded in James 5:7-20 that we are siblings. How do our relationships in the local church help us in our faith journey?
9. Throughout this series, we've been reading through the book of James together as a church. What have you noticed in your life that testifies to reading God's word in a coordinated way?
10. We dare not only hear the Word—we must do what it says. Practically speaking, what are some things we are called to carry out as brothers and sisters called to minister in Jesus' name to a broken world?
11. Prayer time! Take time as a group to pray for one another in specific ways according to what we read in James 5, which might include:
 - » The need for patience as we encounter challenges of injustice
 - » The testimony of perseverance in struggle
 - » A reminder of God's compassion and mercy toward each of us here and the world around us
 - » Healing, faith, and trust in God's will
 - » Strength to persevere
 - » Revival and renewal for those who have fallen away & the humble reminder that we must hold on to Jesus (Hebrews 10:23)

Dear God,

I confess I lack the patience you call me to practice—yet—I know you can develop patience in me.

I confess I forget your Lordship over all—yet—I know I can trust you with what I try to control.

I confess I tend to resist your compassion and mercy —yet—I know that your blessing is found in suffering

I confess I sometimes see prayer as a last resort—yet—I know you're calling me to call out to you first

I confess I want to go my own way and live life on my terms —yet—I know that if I turn to you and trust in you, you'll save me.

Amen.