

James

Temptations, Trials

&

Triumph

Outline of the Book:

- Trials and Truth 1:2-27
- Problems and Faith 2:1-26
- Words and Wisdom 3:1-18
- Conflicts and Submission 4:1-5:6
- **Overcoming 5:7-20**
 - Be Patient and Endure 5:7-11
 - Proper Responses 5:12-20

where we are...

- James is now coming down to his final thoughts
 - He has dealt with BASIC Christian lifestyles
 - Challenging us in our attitudes/hearts
 - Special warnings to the wealthy... (5:1-6)
- Now we think on how to overcome:
 - What should be our attitudes in these days?
 - How should we prepare our hearts?
 - What should be our focus?
 - What should be our source of strength?

Be patient! (7)

- Temptations and trials try to change our focus...
 - *makrothumeo* – longsuffering, do not lose heart (imp)
 - Not passive, active! (Lk 19:13)
 - The focus of our patience is the coming of Jesus!
 - *parousia* – (vs 8 also) the return of the Lord in power
- Another great illustration... farmers!
 - You don't put seed in the ground and harvest
 - It takes TIME – precious seed, when you work hard!
 - Early rains – prepared the soil and germinated seed
 - Late rains – just before harvest, plumps the grain
 - Dt 11:14; Jer 5:24

A quote:

- Spiritual patience is an active, fighting endurance that confronts trials and temptations and that sets out to conquer them. Gaining the victory is the very purpose for patiently confronting and standing fast against them. The believer patiently confronts them to conquer them, not to be defeated by them.

And you too! (8)

- Like the farmer...
 - Again, imperative command to patience (Ga 5:22)
- The key – “strengthen you hearts”
 - *sterizo* – establish, fix, make firm
 - Heart - thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors
 - What are these set on? (Mt 6:21)
 - 2Ch 12:14; 19:3; Ez 7:10; Ro 2:4; 1Ti 1:16; 2Pt 3:9
- The focus... the coming is at hand!
 - How much closer are we now?

Another Key to Patience (9)

- Beware complaining – *stenazo*, groan, grudge
 - This created many problems in Israel! (1Co 10:10)
 - Positive – Ro 8:23; 2Co 5:2,4
- Warning of judgment (2:12; 4:12)
 - Grumbling against each other will be judged!
 - We think of “big sins” – God sees attitudes!
 - He is at the door – are we answering?
 - When Jesus comes should it be a happy day?
 - Are we free from all our past hurts?
 - Have we forgiven? Communion this week...

A call from examples (10-11)

- Prophets who spoke – suffered evil/patience
 - Moses, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Nehemiah
 - Heb 11:36-38 just like TV evangelists... NOT!
 - They spoke in His Name and still needed patience
- If that is not enough... JOB!
 - Endurance – *hupomeno* – super abiding
 - Job endures loss of family, finances, friends...
 - Has to pray for abusers with no promise! Job 42:7ff
 - Outcome of the Lord's dealings! (Mt 5:10,11)
 - Full of compassion (Micah 7:18; Joel 2:13)