

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

# How to Deal With Impatience

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James 5:7-11

**1 How do you deal with impatience? 2**

**Let's look at some examples of impatience and its consequences in the Bible. 3**

**During the wilderness journey the Israelites stopped at a very desolate place. They complained because there was a lack of water there for them and their livestock. Moses went to the Lord and He told Moses to "speak" to the rock and water will spill out from it.**

**However, the people complained so loudly that Moses got impatient with them and "struck" the rock twice with his rod to make the water come forth. 1 As a result of not obeying God accurately, Moses was not allowed to lead his people to the promised land. 4**

**As the Lord and His disciples were headed south for Jerusalem through Samaria, they planned on stopping**

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**1 Numbers 20:9-12 - So Moses took the staff from the Lord's presence, just as he commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."**

**at a village along the way. When the people of that village rejected them, James and John became so angry they asked the Lord to destroy the village. <sup>2</sup> Their impatience received the Lord's rebuke! <sup>5</sup>**

**Impatience is one of the main reasons we get discouraged when we pray. The Lord just does not seem to be answering our requests quick enough. Your timetable is usually not the Lord's timetable. But you would like to have answers now. Right?**

**Impatience is a universal human problem. Particularly when we had all of our children living at home, it was one of the main irritants in our family. <sup>6</sup>**

**So, it becomes important for us to know how to deal successfully with impatience.**

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<sup>2</sup> Luke 9:51-56 - As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village.

**James, chapter 5, verses 7 through 11, can help us with this problem. <sup>7</sup>**

**Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! <sup>3 8</sup>**

**Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. <sup>4 9</sup>**

**The first question to be answered by this scripture is . . .**

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<sup>3</sup> James 5:7-9.

<sup>4</sup> James 5:10-11.

## I. Why Be Patient? - v7-8

Why be patient? <sup>10</sup>

**Because patience yields good fruit.** <sup>11</sup> Verse 7, **Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.**

A farmer's patience results in a good crop. Early rain comes in late October which germinates the seed. Late rain comes in April causing the seed to mature. You need the whole process for a good crop to result. Patience in your life is part of the process that yields an abundant life! <sup>12</sup>

**Because God wants you ready for when the Lord comes again.** Verse 8 reads, **You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.**

The Lord could come any time. He could come even today! <sup>13</sup> Second Peter, chapter 3, verse 9 <sup>5</sup> tells us that He is delaying His return to give everyone the opportunity to choose Him! <sup>14</sup>

The second question is . . .

## II. What am I to Be Patient With? - v9-11

What am I to be patient with? <sup>15</sup>

**Other people.** Verse 9 says, **Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!**

You tend to pass judgment on people who do not do it your way because you do it right. Right? <sup>16</sup> But Matthew, chapter 7, verses 1 and 2 read, **"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."** <sup>17</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> II Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

The Lord is the only judge that matters! <sup>18</sup> **“The Judge is standing at the door”** is Second Coming language which echoed what the Lord said, **Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.** <sup>6</sup> <sup>19</sup> Again, He said, **Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.** <sup>7</sup> <sup>20</sup> This same phrase is used in Romans, chapter 2, verse 16, **This will take place on the day when God will judge men’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.** <sup>21</sup> So, let’s leave the judging up to God! <sup>22</sup>

Another thing to be patient with are **the trials of life!** Notice in verses 10 and 11 we read, **Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.** <sup>23</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Matthew 24:33.

<sup>7</sup> Mark 13:29.

Sometimes it is not people, but the situations you find yourself in, that bug you. First Peter, chapter 2, verse 20 <sup>8</sup> tells us that suffering for what is right brings God's favor. <sup>24</sup>

Finally the third question is . . .

### III. What Can I Do to Help with Impatience? -

v10-11

What can I do to help with impatience? <sup>25</sup>

**Consider the examples of the prophets.** What did they do? Verse 10, **Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.** <sup>26</sup>

Elijah wins the "Who is God" contest with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. This turns the people of Israel back to the true God.

But the news gets back to the king and queen. They put out a contract on Elijah's life and he has to skip

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<sup>8</sup> I Peter 2:20 - But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.



the country.<sup>9</sup> Even though heavy depression appears, God ends up miraculously caring for him.<sup>27</sup>

Because Jeremiah prophesies that the people should surrender to the Babylonians, he is locked in a cistern.<sup>10</sup> He remains faithful to the Lord even though sinking in the mud and about to starve. Just in time the king orders his rescue.<sup>28</sup>

**Consider the example of Job.** Verse 11 closes with this, **As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.** He remained loyal and was rewarded in the end!<sup>29</sup>

**How do you deal with impatience?**

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. He will give you the strength to persevere!**

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<sup>9</sup> II Kings 19:1-6.

<sup>10</sup> Jeremiah 38:6-10.

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