



# VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

## Weekly Bible Study - 14:04:2010

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### STUDY 40: THE MANDATE FOR, AND MANIFESTATION OF PATIENCE

**TEXT: James 5:7-11** Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. **8** Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. **9** Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. **10** Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. **11** Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

After exposing the evils of covetousness and correcting their perpetrators James turns his attention to the victims of such injustices and encouraged them to patiently await the coming of the Lord. Patience is a much needed virtue in this jet age, for all who aspire to "give diligence to make your calling and election sure..." (II Peter 1:10). After distinctive evidences of genuine Christian experience, perseverance in them must ever mark the genuine believer. A forward glance to the end of the present age (James 5:8) and of the coming judgment (James 5:9) should remind believers of the coming of the Lord and the need to be found in faith. At the beginning of the epistle James' prescription for a life of trials and temptation was patience (James 1:3,4) and prayer (James 1:5). It is to these two things that he returns at the end: "Be patient, therefore" (James 5:7) a theme which continues until verse 12. Patient continuance in "bearing fruits meet for repentance" until the coming of the Lord is important for every believer.

### THE MANDATE FOR PATIENCE

James 5:7-9; Galatians 5:22; II Thessalonians 1:4; I Timothy 6:11; II Timothy 3:10; II Peter 1:6; II Corinthians 6:4; Hebrews 6:12,15; 10:36; 12:1; Luke 8:15; 21:19,34; Romans 8:25.

The call to patience could not be clearer:

1. "Be ye patient therefore..." (James 5:7);
2. "Be ye also patient..." (James 5:8).
3. "Take, my brethren, the prophets... for an example ... of patience" (James 5:10).
4. "Ye have heard of the patience of Job..." (James 5:11).

In all of Christendom, there is an emphasis on Christian character. The Bible gives this Christ-like pattern of character a pungent expression in Peter's Epistle (II Peter 1:5-8). The gateway to patience as well as the other fruits of the Spirit is "**YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN**". Patience or longsuffering is the powerful capacity of selfless love to bear all things and continue in adverse situations. It is a generous willingness to try to understand awkward people, disturbing events and unwelcome situations that God allows to come your way. This quality of character was beautifully displayed in Jesus Christ "who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross despising the shame..." (Hebrews 12:2). Victorious Christian living requires the patience and

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perseverance that can only be acquired and maintained through constant waiting upon God.

### **THE MANIFESTATIONS OF PATIENCE**

James 5:8-10; I Peter 2:18-25

James saliently illustrates patience with a farmer who has to patiently wait for the early and later rain prior to his crops being ready for harvest. He also points out that the presence of patience will be manifested in the absence of grudges against one another even in the midst of injustice. "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door" (James 5:9). This is in line with a similar admonition by Peter - "Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the forward. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God" (I Peter 2:18-20). He then encouraged believers to learn from the examples of the prophets - "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience" (James 5:10).

The best example of such patience was manifested by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ - "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls" (I Peter 2:21-25).

It is worth noting that the believer is called to patience but not compromise. Christ manifested patience but did not compromise His faith. Making heaven is on the premise that the believer triumphs over temptations to compromise. It takes patience and faith to hold unto godliness when faced with the pressure to compromise.

### **THE BLESSINGS OF PATIENCE**

James 5:11; II Timothy 2:3; Job 5:10-11; 42:5,10; Ecclesiastes 7:8; Hebrews 11:32-40; Revelation 3:7-10; 14:12.

Patience has three major benefits namely: discipline, development and direction (James 1: 3-4). One of the blessedness of patience is that God looks for patience in the life of His children. He visited the prophets who suffered and manifested patience. Patience is a mark that God looks for in His children. Another blessedness of patience is that God blesses His Church through patient service. And yet another blessedness of patience is that God reveals Himself to His patient children. Job ended with a greater testimony than he had ever had before. It is not the Christian who passes through sufferings or trials that is blessed, but the believer who endures - who with patience and constancy goes through all difficulties in the way of duty.