Walk the Talk #9 Pastor Mark Jealouse

*The Epistle of James* March 23, 2025

**Walk the Talk**

*- Don’t Give Up* **-**James 5:7-12

* Review from last week - Persevering faith is demonstrated by daily:
  + Acknowledging God’s sovereignty over our lives.
  + Obediently following the will of God.
  + Confidently trusting in the justice of God.
* Persevering faith is demonstrated by daily:
  + Practicing patience in suffering.
    - In light of this suffering you are experiencing, and the judgement coming to those rich oppressors, be patient until the Lord’s coming.
* Patience – enduring under provocation.
  + Waiting with the right attitude.
  + Staying put and standing fast, even though you want to quit or run away.
  + Endure and expect.
* The example of the farmer:
  + Understands the process.
    - Waiting on the Lord is normal – suffering for the Lord is normal.
  + Relies on things out of their control.
    - Honour God with what we can control and patiently leave with God those things that are outside our control.
  + Continues to work while waiting.
    - Keep working even as we patiently wait.
  + Understands the value of the crop.
    - We are waiting for Jesus.
* Stand firm, strengthen your heart.
  + Our hearts are strengthened by each other, by the church, by doing life in community with other believers.
* Do not grumble against one another.
  + Impatience with God can lead to impatience with each other.
  + Don’t allow impatience in your suffering to lead to infighting in the church.
* The example of the prophets:
  + They all suffered greatly at the hands of other people.
    - Even though they were in the will of God.
  + Obedience to God is not a guarantee of a life of ease and pleasure.
    - We are called to continue witnessing and sharing the Gospel, even in the midst of suffering.
* The example of Job:
  + He was righteous, yet God allowed him to suffer greatly.
  + He persevered.
  + God restored him fully.
  + *In our suffering God is at work to give us something much better than what we want -* Paul David Tripp.
  + There is no perseverance without trials, no victory without battles, no peaks without valleys.
* Persevering faith is demonstrated by daily:
  + Simply speaking the truth.
  + Let your speech be trustworthy, consistent, reliable, and dependable.
  + In our Christian community, the family of God, we need to avoid the flippant use of oaths.
    - Practice plain speaking.
    - Let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no.
    - Be people of integrity.
    - Remember that the way we speak reveals our spiritual condition.
* Living for Jesus – Walking the Talk – Persevering in our Faith.
  + Practice patience in your suffering and simply speak the truth.