



"Be Patient and Prayerful"

James 5:7-20

Sermon by Roger Clark, June 10, 2012

(also available online at socc.org)

We hope you will enjoy spending more time thinking and talking about the topics that we hear on Sundays during the sermons. **Feel free to simply think about and discuss what you heard and were challenged by.** Or you may use these questions as a guide or to supplement your conversations.

1. What does a farmer demonstrate to us about patience?
2. What circumstances in your life require extra effort in being patient?
3. How would you differentiate between patience and perseverance? Are you more experienced in practicing one or the other?
4. Often we hear the verse, "do not swear" and think it refers to cursing. But the command is to give a simple yes or no, rather than swearing by your mother's grave or anything else. Why is this command so important?
5. Many of us are good about praying when we have trouble (verse 13). But inversely, are we equally good about remembering to celebrate and praise God for the *good* things? What are the downsides of *only* doing one of these or the other?
6. How can you develop your prayer and/or your praise life?

Chapter 5

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we count as 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.

¹² Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

The Prayer of Faith

¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.