

### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: PATIENCE WITH LIFE

*James 5:7-11*

#### MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. HOW TO WAIT WELL
2. WHAT WAITING DOES
3. WHERE THE STRENGTH TO WAIT COMES FROM

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick two or three of these to talk about as a group

1. What was most helpful for you from this week's message? Why?
2. We live in a world that strives for on-demand, instant gratification. What are some ways this environment has shaped your expectations in life? What impact has that had on your ability to be patient and endure well through difficulty?
3. James 5:7-11 tells us that to learn to wait well we should observe the way a farmer is patient for the rains and the harvest. What are some important implications we can pull from considering the patience of a farmer?
4. Enduring difficulty well can lead us to a depth of relationship with God that would not have been possible apart from the suffering. Have you ever experienced this reality in your own life? If so, what was the experience like? How did the suffering drive you closer to God?
5. In James 5, Job is listed as an example of enduring well. What do you find encouraging about the example we have in Job? Read Job chapters 38-42 as a group and discuss what these chapters tell you about God.
6. Pointing forward to Jesus' return was a common way that early Christians encouraged one another. Look up a few other passages where this occurs and read them as a group. Why do you think it is more rare for Christians to encourage each other this way today?

**A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU:** "Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18