

Battling Unbelief

Discussion Questions- Noted by Jon Feiser

Chapter 4: *Battling Impatience*

1. Read [James 5:7-11](#).

a) In what [situations are you tempted to be impatient](#)? Think of some specific examples from the last month. In each case, consider: What was the root cause of your impatience?

b) In verses 7 and 8, James tells us to be patient “for the coming of the Lord is at hand.” Look at [James 1:2-4](#) for the context in which the author writes these words.

In what sense is the coming of the Lord a reason for being patient?

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand... (James 5: 7-8)

c) Why do we consider the prophets who endured suffering to be blessed, or happy (v. 10-11a)? How is this an encouragement to you? Think again about James 1:2-4.

e) The rest of verse 11 refers to the steadfastness of Job. What was God’s goal in all His dealings with Job? Could Job see that goal in the midst of his sufferings? In context, is James’ point here, “Wait long enough and your earthly sufferings will turn into earthly prosperity, like Job”?

*Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the **purpose** of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. (James 5:11)*

f) How then does faith in future grace help us combat the temptation to impatience?

3. In this chapter, Piper relates a series of wonderful examples of patience by faith in future grace, both from the Bible and from church history. Pick one of these stories that applies particularly to the recent struggles with patience you related in question 1a above. How can you use this story in the future to help you fight the fight to believe in God's future grace?

4. Piper writes, "The key to patience is faith in the future grace of God's 'glorious might' to transform all our interruptions into rewards." Consider some of your recent "interruptions." Have some of those clearly been transformed into rewards? For those that have not – can you imagine how God could transform them into rewards? Think again about James 5:7-11 as you answer this question.

4) Make a list of specific verses and truths from this chapter that you will memorize so that you might become more patient in the future.