

The background of the image features a silhouette of a mountain range against a sunset sky. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon, where the sun is setting behind the mountains. The mountains are dark and jagged, creating a stark contrast with the bright sky.

BE PATIENT

James 5:7–12

WHEN DO WE NEED PATIENCE?

- We need patience when ...
 - We have done (and are doing) everything that we can do but the situation is beyond our control (e.g., farmer; Jas 5:7).
 - We have said what is needed but people refuse to change and instead attack us (e.g., prophets = suffering [Gr. kakopatheia] + patience [Gr. makrothymia]; v. 10; cf. Matt 5:12).
 - We have lived (or are living) righteously but inexplicably suffer hardships (e.g., Job; v. 11; cf. Ps 73:2–14).
- Patience allows us to release what we cannot control.

WHY DO WE NEED PATIENCE?

- We need patience because ...
 - Nothing is outside of God's control and God will eventually right all wrongs (Jas 5:7–9; cf. Rom 12:17–21).
 - A blessing (Gr. makarizō) and a reward (Gr. misthos; cf. Jas 5:4) await those of us who persevere through trial (Jas 5:11a; cf. 1:12; Matt 5:11–12; Rom 8:18).
 - God is working for our good, even if we cannot understand how (Jas 5:11b [Gr. polysplanchos]; cf. Rom 8:28; Gen 50:20).
- Patience allows us receive what we do not deserve.

HOW DO WE SHOW PATIENCE?

- We show (and develop) patience when we ...
 - Wait expectantly for the Lord (Jas 5:7; cf. Gal 6:9; Rom 8:25).
 - Strengthen our hearts in the Lord (Jas 5:8; cf. 2 Cor 4:16–18).
 - Deal gently with others (Jas 5:9; cf. 1:26; 4:11–12; 1 Thess 5:14).
 - Follow the example of those who endured (Jas 5:10–11).
 - Remember who God is (v. 11b; cf. vv. 7–9; Heb 12:3–11).
 - Avoid empty vows (Jas 5:12; cf. v. 9; Matt 5:33–37).
- God is patient with us (2 Pet 3:9). How will we respond?

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