

# STUDY GUIDE

## JAMES: Week 12 8.25.13

### [set up]

On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 High), what rating would you give yourself on patience?

What areas of life are most difficult for you to be display patience?

Why is it hard to be patient while we wait for the promised future return of Jesus Christ?

### [digging deeper]

Review this last weekend's teaching passage from James 5:7-12. During the message, we were encouraged to be (1) People of patience, (2) People of peace, (2) People of endurance, (4) People of integrity and, (5) People of action while we wait for Christ to return. Which one of these five areas do you feel strongest in and which one do you feel weakest in?

How often do you think about the return of Christ? How does our awareness of Christ's return affect the way we live our lives?

What makes you feel like the coming of Jesus Christ may be soon? What makes you feel like it may still be a ways off?

What are ways we grumble against each other? How does that provoke judgment from other people?

Who does God refer to as examples of patience and endurance? How can thinking of these examples encourage us and help us endure difficulties in life while waiting for the return of Christ?

In James 5:11, God has James refer to Job. If you are familiar with Job's story, how can one see the Lords purposes, compassion and mercy through Job's dramatic circumstances? How have you seen Gods purposes, compassion and mercy in your most difficult circumstances?

Why are we discouraged to make oaths and say "I swear" to convince people that what we are saying is accurate? What is the value of letting our yes be yes and no be no?

What is God using in your life right now to teach you endurance? How can God be glorified through any circumstances that you are struggling with. How can it be a testimony to others? How does it make you long for Christ's return?

Read Psalm 37. Where do you see parallel concepts from David in this Psalm related to what James taught in the verses above?



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Scan over Matthew 5. Where do you see similar concepts from the teaching of Jesus with what we have seen in these verses from James?

Read all of 2 Peter 3. Where does Peter echo James related to the return of Christ? What additional instructions do we get from Peter in how to live while we wait for Christ to return?

## **[living it out]**

In the light of being reminded of Christ's return, what can you do this week to be a person that exercises more:

Patience \_\_\_\_\_

Peace \_\_\_\_\_

Endurance \_\_\_\_\_

Integrity \_\_\_\_\_

Action in the name of Christ \_\_\_\_\_

Read Titus 2:11-13 out loud a few times. Write it down somewhere where you will see it daily this week (note, journal, post-it, calendar alert in phone, etc.) Commit to memorize it this week and read it every day, say from memory if possible

After studying the return of Christ a little more in depth just now, spend some time in prayer asking God to give you to be more of a person of patience, peace, endurance, integrity and action while waiting for the return of Christ. Pray out over anything else the Lord impresses on your heart during this time