

OVERCOMING IMPATIENCE

For the week of August 2, 2020

James 5:7-12

Full message available at highpoint.church/currentseries

Goal:

Overcoming impatience as we aim to please God.

GET GOING

- Dictionary.com defines patience as “the ability or willingness to suppress restlessness or annoyance” (Dictionary.com). What would you add or clarify to this definition?
- As the saying goes, “Hindsight is 20/20.” What is an instance of impatience, that seemed so serious then, but seems more comical now? How does this incident display how God might need to further develop your patience?
- Who is someone in your life that displays godly patience on a consistent basis? What attribute do you want to emulate?

KEEP GROWING

- Pastor Ron shared that, “In the midst of our waiting we need to plow the fields of our own hearts to make sure they align with God’s heart.” Read James 5:7-8 and Hosea 10:12. Consider:
 - a. What is the primary “fruit” that you have been sowing in your heart? How has this “fruit” impacted your level of patience?
 - b. What “hard ground” do you need to ask God to break-up in your heart?
 - c. What practical change do you need to make to align your heart with God’s heart?
- To overcome impatience, we must keep our attitudes in check (James 5:9). Our attitudes are often reflected in our thoughts, words and actions. Read James 5:9, Matthew 12:36 and James 3:8. Which of these three verses challenges you the most? Why?
- To overcome impatience, we must believe that God’s got our back (James 5:10-11). What is your most recent trial that God used for your good? If you are currently experiencing a trial, how might your previous trial remind you that God’s got your back?

- Psalm 15 reminds us that to overcome impatience, we must stay true to our word (James 5:12). Rank in order, from 1 (I practice this quality most consistently) to 4 (I need God's help to practice this quality more consistently) the following traits.
 - I practice integrity regularly and faithfully. (Psalm 15:2)
 - I do not gossip or slander. (Psalm 15:3)
 - I keep promises even if the outcome is not in my favor. (Psalm 15:4)
 - I regularly choose to treat others with fairness and for their benefit. (Psalm 15:5)

Bonus Challenge

Note the quality from Psalm 15 that you need God's help to practice more consistently i.e the quality you ranked "4." Take 20 minutes this week to consider how you might allow God to help you to practice this quality more consistently.

Memory Verse

"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Romans 5:3-5).

