MARK & FRIENDS

Patience Is Active Faith: Trusting God Through Trials

Friday, November 20, 2026 | Ministry Package V5.1
Host: Mark Burns | Speaker: Pastor Mark Johnson

Program Summary

Mark Burns and Pastor Mark Johnson of Calvary Church in Springfield continue their study of James with verses 7-11 of chapter 5. After Mike from Springfield reads the passage, the group considers patience in suffering, difficult relationships, and waiting for God's promises. Pastor Mark connects James's closing call to patience with the testing of faith in James 1. The discussion emphasizes that patience can involve restraint, silence, firm boundaries, and continued obedience rather than retaliation or angry reaction. Everyday illustrations include parenting, traffic, conflict, and the farmer who plants and waits for growth. The group reflects on the Spirit's work in developing character and on Joseph's response to his brothers in Genesis 50:20. The closing encouragement is to keep trusting God and reflecting Christ's peace while awaiting the Lord's return.

Key Takeaways

- James calls believers to patience and perseverance while they wait for the Lord's coming.
- The farmer's example joins faithful work with patient dependence on growth that cannot be hurried.
- Patience involves active trust: continuing to obey God while waiting for the outcome.
- Silence, restraint, and a firm answer offered in the right spirit can be expressions of patience.
- Patience can include clear boundaries; it does not require joining another person's anger or accepting every demand.
- A trial can produce bitterness, but the discussion calls believers to let endurance shape Christlike character.
- Honest prayer about resentment and impatience opens the heart to God's continuing work.
- Joseph's words in Genesis 50:20 encourage trust in God's purpose even when another person intended harm.

Scripture References

- James 5:7-11 - Main passage, read at the opening: the farmer, the Lord's coming, restraint from complaining, the prophets, Job, and the Lord's compassion and mercy.
- James 1:2-4 - Quoted and discussed: the testing of faith, patience, and maturity.
- James 1:13-14, 22, 26 - References in the review of temptation, obedience, and speech.
- James 4:4, 7, 13; James 5:1 - References in Pastor Mark's overview of pressures and trials throughout the letter.

- Galatians 5:22-23 - The fruit of the Spirit, including patience, referenced throughout the conversation.
- 2 Peter 1:3-4 - The discussion echoes the connection between God's promises and participation in the divine nature.
- Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 8:10 - The new-covenant promise of God's law written on the heart, echoed in the discussion.
- Luke 6:27-28 - The call to bless those who curse and pray for others, recalled in a personal illustration.
- Philippians 2:14-15 - The image of believers shining like stars, echoed in the discussion of Christian character.
- Romans 5:3-5 - Perseverance, character, and hope; verse 4 is specifically recalled by a participant.
- Genesis 50:20 - Joseph's words to his brothers, quoted near the close: human intent to harm and God's purpose for good.

Quote of the Day

"I can wait on God. I can trust God." — Pastor Mark Johnson

Broadcast Notes

Host: Mark Burns. Bible discussion leader: Pastor Mark Johnson of Calvary Church in Springfield. Opening Scripture reader: Mike from Springfield. The program follows the previous Friday's discussion of James 5:1-6 and stewardship, moving to patience in James 5:7-11. The studio group discusses impatience, the fruit of the Spirit, boundaries in conflict, waiting for promises, and the farmer's example. Personal stories and the speakers' interpretations are retained in the complete transcript. The opening Scripture reading and later quotations use different Bible wording; the transcript preserves the wording supplied rather than replacing it with a single translation. The closing revisits James 5:7 and encourages listeners to reflect Christ's peace amid uncertainty.

Practical Applications

- Read James 5:7-11 slowly, noticing both the call to patience and the assurance of the Lord's compassion.
- Name one situation in which I am trying to hurry an outcome I cannot control.
- Identify the faithful action I can take today while entrusting the result to God.
- Pause before answering an impatient or angry person; choose a calm response and appropriate boundaries.
- Notice complaining or retaliatory words and ask God to shape a different response.
- Bring resentment honestly to God, asking Him to heal my heart and help me seek another person's good.
- Look for growth in patience without assuming I have finished growing.
- Recall Joseph's example and pray for the wisdom to respond faithfully when someone has intended harm.

Today's Challenge

Choose one recurring test of patience. Before it arises again, decide on a faithful response: pause, pray, speak calmly, set a needed boundary, or continue a good task without demanding immediate results. Read James 5:7-11 and ask God to help you put that response into practice this week.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your patience, compassion, and mercy toward me. Strengthen my heart when waiting is difficult and when circumstances are beyond my control. Teach me to trust You while continuing to do what is right. Guard my words from complaining, bitterness, and retaliation. Give me wisdom to set appropriate boundaries with a calm and loving spirit. Help me bring resentment honestly to You and grow the fruit of patience in my life. As I wait for Jesus' return, let my conduct reflect His peace and point others toward Your goodness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

About Today's Speaker

Pastor Mark Johnson

Calvary Church, Springfield, Illinois

Pastor Mark Johnson serves at Calvary Church in Springfield and regularly leads Mark & Friends Bible discussions. In today's study of James 5:7-11, he encourages listeners to trust God through trials, practice patience in relationships, and continue in faithful obedience while waiting for the Lord.

Featured on Mark & Friends - Listen anytime under the Mark & Friends tab at GreatNewsRadio.org or WLUJ.org.

About Today's Host

Mark Burns

Host of Mark & Friends

Mark Burns is General Manager of the WLUJ Family of Stations and Great News Radio Network and host of Mark & Friends. With decades of experience in Christian radio and ministry, he presents Scripture-centered programs intended to educate, edify, and evangelize.

Additional Ministry Resources

- Mark & Friends Program Resource Library
- Great News Radio
- WLUJ
- James 5:7-11 - read the passage
- James 1:2-4 - trials and perseverance
- Genesis 50:20 - Joseph's response

Complete Proofread Transcript

[Opening theme: “We’re Glad You’re Here.”]

Reading from James chapter 5 verses 7 through 11.

Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it until it gets the early and late rains. You too, be patient.

Strengthen your hearts for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brethren, one against the other, that you yourselves may not be judged. Behold, the judge is standing right at the door.

As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

That was James chapter 5 verses 7 through 11. Oh, magnify the Lord with me. Let us exalt his name together.

It's finally Friday, November 20th, 2026. We're looking at James chapter 5 verses 7 through 11 with the always faithful, talented, the gifted, a good friend, Pastor Mark Johnson from Calvary Church here in Springfield. We appreciate his efforts, his skill sets.

We talked a lot last week about how God has entrusted different gift sets and wealth and riches, and I appreciate his efforts to share and divide God's word for us today. Patience, wow, this is one of the hardest ones for me, part of the fruit of the Spirit. And anytime we act when we're impatient, we're acting in the flesh.

And so this message I'm sure will hit home for many of us, certainly for me. But I learned from a friend years ago, never pray, Lord, teach me to be patient because then hard times are going to come. So be very careful when you pray about wanting to be more patient because he'll test that.

And it's difficult to achieve that, but it's part of the fruit and we all need to be patient. And so let's learn what we can from this passage today as we continue our readings through James. I think five or six months now we've been in this book and we appreciate Pastor Mark Johnson facilitating today's discussion.

And the reader was Mike from Springfield. It's the second time he's been a part of Mark and Friends. And so I put him on the spot.

He's retired from ADM and here joining us again. And he did volunteer. I just said, hey, will you read this? So we appreciate Mike's efforts.

So, Mark, last week we talked about some warnings, some healthy conviction on how we steward our time, our resources, our energies, our efforts. Today we're going to learn about being patient, especially during suffering. What should we learn? What do you think about this? How many in this room? There's about 20 of us here that are in the room today.

And a lot of you are listening. But how many in this room have ever had trouble with patience? Every hand is raised. How many have ever had trouble with somebody else's lack of patience? Both of our hands.

That's right. James is now drawing this book, Jewish Christians. He's drawing it to a close.

And so he takes this verse and he begins to tie the book together from beginning to end. Be patient then, brothers. Do you remember how he started? In James chapter one, verse two, he says, My brethren, count it all a joy when you fall in the divers temptations, knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. This call to patience is a call to the fullness of the divine nature. As God is patient with us, how many of you are grateful God's patient with us? I am thankful for God's patience.

We're called to be patient to others. So all through the book of James, we're reminded that we're going to face trials, tests to our life. So let me just hit a couple.

James 1, 13 and 14, our flesh will tempt us to break the boundaries. James 1, 22, we will want to live our way instead of God's way. In James 1, 26, we will want to say things we shouldn't say.

In James 4, 4, we will want to act like the world instead of how God intends us to act. In James 4, 7, the enemy will come against us to discourage us. In James 4, 13, we will want things like fame, power and money.

In James 5, 1, we will be oppressed in a broken world. Trials will come. Show me anybody in the Bible that God writes about and tells us about in the Bible, and I will show you somebody who faced trials.

Trials. You probably already have people listening. You're probably already facing some trials.

There are ways we're to deal with those, and James is telling us how to face them. What's your trial today? Face it with patience. We are not a people who fall apart.

We are not a people who flash back to being in the world because we have a trial, and now I can go act like I used to act. We are a people of the kingdom of God, and a people of the kingdom of God take on the nature of God, and thank God He's patient with us. And He calls us to be patient with others.

Patience is a big deal. Patience equals action. We're not just called to have faith.

That faith results in action, and don't you think that that's what James is telling us, that we take action when we have riches. I mean, we don't keep them to ourselves. We share what we've been given.

When we're tempted, we move away from whatever's tempting us, so in my mind, it's movement. Well, with patience, I am patient with something. I'm patient in the trial.

What am I patient for? I'm patient because I trust God to bring about an outcome. But then you act on that, right? I'm patient. Sometimes the patience is silence.

Mark, I wrote down patience equals action. It's not passive or inaction. You're actually doing something.

To be patient, it takes great restraint. So, I mean, it's kind of, sometimes you can look at patience as being like quiet or withdrawn, but it's actually, it's an active. Biblical patience is patient with God to work out the outcome.

Now, I may be patient with a person while I am telling them the boundaries, but I tell them in the right spirit. So get this, the key here of our development is not the trial. Listen to this verse again.

My brethren, count it all a joy when you fall into divers temptations, knowing that the trying of your faith worketh patience. So the trial that I'm in, if I am trusting God, I can face that trial with joy because God is using that trial to build patience in me. But let patience have her perfect work.

So now patience is going to do a work in me. That ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. You're not moved by the trials of this world.

You're not swayed by the trials of this world. The wind doesn't blow you here and there in this world. You are steady.

You are consistent. You are Christ-like. It doesn't mean we don't say no to something.

It doesn't mean we don't say I won't do that. It doesn't mean we don't say I can't put up with this, but we do it in the spirit of Christ. So the key is not the trial that produces good.

It's that the trial allows patience to grow in us, and that's what makes us complete. I'm not complete until I can be patient in every circumstance. So it's like this.

If you have a small child in the house, they're two-year-old, and I remember there was a time at Christmastime when you came into our house, all of our ornaments on our Christmas tree were in the top half of the tree. The bottom half of the tree was just a plain tree because we had a two-year-old boy who liked to toddle into that room, grab the ornaments, and smash them together. He'd have his little hands would be cut up, little cuts on his hands, but he thought that was the funniest thing in the world.

Now, you couldn't reason with him. Look what you're doing to yourself. He didn't care.

He found delight in that. He didn't understand not to do it. We had to be patient with that person.

Sometimes you're looking at somebody who's 50, somebody who's 60, and you've got to be patient with them. You've got to be of the higher place of faith than they are, and to be able to see that what they're saying and what they're doing is not something I have to take personally. It's not something I have to let weigh me down.

I don't get wounded by their words. I'm telling you, I've had people get mad at me and cuss me out, threaten me, do everything in the world. You don't have to put up with that, but you don't have to be wounded by it either.

I don't go home that night and cry. I was doing the right thing. I said the right thing.

I had one guy yelling at me one day, and I just stood there and watched him, and he yelled and yelled and yelled because he didn't like a decision I made. When he got done, I said, yeah, we're going to still do that. And he yelled at me some more, and he yelled at me some more, and when he got done, I said, no, that's the decision we made.

Then he just stormed off. You can be patient with the person. You don't have to go to where they're at.

Yelling at him wasn't going to get us anyplace. Screaming back at him wasn't going to get us anyplace. Firmness was going to get us to the right place.

And so we're patient. We're patient when the promise hasn't come yet. What, 3,000 to 7,000 promises in the Bible.

Promises are given to us to help us live in the divine nature. The only way the promise is good is if we meet the condition of the promise. It's null and void if I don't meet the condition of the promise.

You can quote it all day long, and you won't get the promise if you don't meet the condition. The condition is what draws us into the divine nature. So there's times when in the middle of something, I've got a promise of God, and I'm meeting the conditions of the promise, but the fruit hasn't grown yet.

It calls for patience. And God's doing that in my life. He's working patience in my life so that I will be complete as a believer and not thrown into this world.

So the key is, God is producing patience. So I can look at the trial and say, at the end of this, I'm going to be a better person. At the end of this, God's promises are going to be true.

At the end of this, God's going to work out His will. I wrote down, and would this be an accurate statement, is impatience a character flaw? Impatience? Is that a character flaw? Well, the fruit of the Spirit, patience is the fruit of the Spirit, so yeah. Anything that lacks the fruit of the Spirit is a flaw in my character.

If I don't love everybody, what does love mean? I want the best for them. If I don't want the best for every person, even my enemies, He tells us to want the best for them. So when I have hatred in my heart, bitterness in my heart, over what somebody has done for me in the past, that's a flaw in my spiritual character.

Patience. Love, joy, peace. Patience.

It's a lack of the fruit of the Spirit in my life, because I lack trusting God fully, and He hasn't written His word on my heart the way He wants to write it on my heart. And I'm thinking, the whole book of James is, how should you live from day to day? But this is also, not only is this an instruction to be patient, it's also kind of a yardstick. You look at this and you go, am I patient yet? Have I progressed? Because this is kind of one of the things that happens when you're more mature.

As a kid, patience, what? No. This is Christmas afternoon. I can't wait until next Christmas.

But as you get older, you're like, you know what? I can handle it. I can wait. And if we're following the instruction here and we're growing spiritually, this patience isn't such a hard thing to do after a while, because the Spirit's been at work.

So when you look at that and you're like, I'm more patient than I used to be. I'm doing better. You know, Tad, you think about this a little bit.

One of the errors, I think, in our generation of Christians is we've wanted to fit in with the world. We want to look like the world, act like the world, be like the world. The call of the Christian is to step out of the rule of the worldly kingdom and into the world of the godly kingdom, the divine nature.

Now for that to happen, we have this new covenant where God writes His word on our heart. So I see this word and I see where I fall short of it. There are people I don't love.

That person said something to me, did something to me, and I'm not too wild about it. And I've said this, I think, on this program many, many times. I have people that hurt me.

And I know the Bible says, bless those who curse you. And so I'll pray and I'll say, God, I want you to bless them. And then I'll say, God, you know, I'm lying.

Forgive me. Forgive me. Heal me of this.

I'm not meeting your standard. I don't feel and sense your standard. And in time, God heals us.

So we look at these and we're supposed to shine like stars in the darkness. We're supposed to be different to the world. The people in our workplace should see us differently than they see everybody else.

They may think it's weird at first. They may think it's strange at first. You won't go get drunk with them after work.

You won't go do this with them. You won't talk about the boss the way they talk about the boss. You won't get mad over everything that happens.

You're patient. And the world may look at us and go, that guy's really odd. But eventually, the wisdom of what God puts in us begins to shine like a light in the darkness.

Mark, you usually would bring this up with everyone, so I'm going to throw it out and I'll put Bernie on the spot because I haven't heard his voice. But what are the things that make us impatient? So that way, the person driving to work today or the person that's tuned in, they can identify with the same things we're identifying with. So Bernie, what makes you impatient? One thing is I'm always as passive as I think, like anyone else.

But as I get older, I've developed a lot more sense of being patient. And I look back at some of the decisions in the Bible of men who were impatient and got ahead of God. And there's some lasting consequences.

Abraham, myself. I remember the times in the past when I've gotten ahead and walked out of my face. So, experience.

You know, Bernie, you think about the person who's single. And they say, I will not be happy until I'm married. And I always look at those people and say, no, if you're not happy now, you won't be happy after you get married.

And people get mad at me. I say, no, marriage is not the pathway to happiness. Marriage is a pathway to a purpose in the kingdom of God.

But you take somebody like that and they decide God's not moving fast enough. And they go out into the world someplace and they meet somebody and they get married. And now they're in a mess.

Because they weren't patient to let God do what he wanted to do in their life. And many, many times the first thing God's doing in that person's life is getting them ready so that they're able, their character's able to meet somebody who's godly. And so that's a sign of, so yeah, impasse could be everything from, boy, that guy that's driving ahead of me up there is an idiot, the way he's driving.

Or why is this traffic so slow? It can be anything in our life to the point of somebody who is just annoying to us. Their character's annoying. Their life is annoying.

What they say and do is so immature and so silly and so wrong that we get impatient with it. And our call is to be patient through all of it and to see the image of God in that other person. To see the call of God in that other person.

And the reason we can love people is because we want the best for them. And the best for every person is that they would know and love God. And if they know and love God, guess what? That annoying person could become one of your best friends.

That person you don't like could become one of your closest associates. Because they got transformed. And to recognize all they need is what I have.

I need the nature of God, so I'm gonna show them the nature of God. So yeah, patience is huge. Romans 5 got a good verse on that.

Verse 4, perseverance produces character. It reveals your character. We're patient.

Yeah, it reveals your character. Listen, trial can produce bitterness. Trial can produce anger.

Trial can produce selfishness. A trial on its own can produce fear, anxiety or doubt, insecurity and more. Patience produces God's end.

When I can look at every circumstance and say, I don't know how the outcome of this is gonna get better, but I can wait on God. I can wait on God. I can trust God.

I'm gonna keep doing what He wants me to do. I'm gonna keep planting the seed He wants me to plant. And I'm not gonna be full of revenge or full of anger.

I'm not gonna respond out of bitterness. I'm gonna keep my heart pure. That's when we persevere and God can do good things in us.

I used to work in the field, so I can relate to that. Yeah. Everything... And he uses this great illustration of the farmer.

The farmer doesn't plant the seed and go out the next day and go, Why hasn't it grown yet? You know, why isn't nothing popping up yet? No, he's patient. He's patient, letting the right seed that's been planted grow. We are seed planters.

And we plant a seed to help things grow. So patience is working something out in us. It's perfecting the nature of Christ in us.

There's a purpose in the trial. So remember Genesis 15, 50, 20? This is a great principle. Genesis 50, 20.

It's at the end of the book of Genesis. Jacob has died. Joseph, they're all in Egypt.

And the brothers realize Dad's dead. Maybe he's been patient with us for Dad's sake. He could kill us all.

He could take revenge on us right now. And they come and bow before Joseph, fearful of what's going to happen. His dream is fulfilled.

They're going to bow before him. And he looks at them and he says, You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. When we see the intent of the person may be to harm us, the intent of the other's actions may be to hurt us, but God's intent may be to show his character through us for the saving of many lives.

We become patient. We're not of this world. We're of a different kingdom.

I'll close out with a rereading of James 5:7, the first part. Be patient then, brothers, and for that matter, brothers, sisters, children, all of us. Be patient until the Lord's coming.

How many of us are impatient just for that because we see tragedy, we see heartache, we see the things that are happening in this world and we want his return. But he will return, and there will be judgment, and he'll right all the wrongs, but until that time, we are called to be patient. So listening friend, reread this passage maybe today, this weekend.

Be familiar with this book of James. It has so many practical applications for our lives, and God wants us to walk in his Spirit so that we can be his ambassadors, Christ's disciple thinkers. And so be patient today because somebody's going to say, how can you be patient in the midst of this uncertainty or the political upheaval in our community? And you can exhibit that peace of Christ that he desires all of us to have.

Well, thanks for listening. Thanks for being a part of our Radio Listening family. This is Mark Burns, Pastor Mark Johnson, and a room of friends with the Ministry of Great News Media.

God bless you, and have a great day, night, and weekend.