

CHRISTIAN, BE PATIENT, HANG ON

James 5:7-11

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Temptations and trials in life are terrible enemies for everyone, but especially the Christian. These things can enslave, destroy, unsettle, disrupt and crush and a thousand more things. How can one overcome, conquer, and gain a permanent victory over all the temptations and trials one faces in life? Here is the first step:

I. BE PATIENT, FOR THE LORD JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

1. James 5:7
2. The Bible tells us over and over again that Jesus is coming back to earth again.
 - Christ is coming again to reward every believer for his/her work. (Matthew 16:27)
 - Christ is coming again to separate the sheep from the goats. (Matthew 25:31-32)
 - Christ is coming again to judge both the living and the dead. (2 Timothy 4:1)
 - Christ is coming again to execute judgment upon the unbelievers or the ungodly. (Jude 14, 15)
 - Christ is coming again to judge believers. (2 Corinthians 5:10)
3. The Bible also tells believers how to live up to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - We are to occupy ourselves, be busy in serving the Lord until He comes back. (Luke 19:13)
 - We are not to slack up one bit or lack a single gift until Jesus Christ returns. (1 Corinthians 1:7)
 - We are to be without spot and unrebukeable when the Lord Jesus returns. (1 Timothy 6:14)
 - We are to deny ungodliness, worldly lusts, live soberly, righteously, and godly until Jesus Christ returns. (Titus 2:12-13)
 - We are to live so as not to be ashamed before Christ when He returns. (1 John 2:28)
4. No matter how strong and terrible the trials and troubles are, we must patiently combat their enslaving power and the spirit of discouragement and defeat.
 - Spiritual "patience" is not a passive acceptance. It is an active, fighting, endurance that sets out to conquer.
 - Spiritual "patience" is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is an urge to combat the situation and to conquer it.
 - When the Holy Spirit does His part, the believer is to do his/her part.

II. BE AS PATIENT AS A FARMER

1. James 5:7-9
2. The farmer is a good example of the kind of patient waiting believers need to have:
 - seed is planted, wait for the seeds to germinate, wait for water, wait for sun, protect the seeds/plants from the elements and one day harvest his crop.
 - Believers must "establish" their hearts, focus, fix upon, make fast, look for the return of the Lord.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 5:1; 6:9; Philippians 1:27; Hebrews 12:1; 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - Believers must not complain, murmur, or judge other believers, or complain about their situations.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:10; Philippians 2:14; Proverbs 19:3; Lamentations 3:39

III. BE PATIENT AS THE PROPHETS WERE

1. James 5:10
2. Look at all who have gone before us. They faced all kinds of trials and temptations and endured.
- Hebrews 11:36-38
3. The prophets refused to give in or grumble against God. They continued to speak up for God.
- Acts 5:41; Romans 8:17; Hebrews 11:25; 1 Peter 2:20; 5:10

IV. BE PATIENT AS JOB

1. James 5:11
2. Few people ever suffer the trials and temptations of life such as Job suffered. He lost everything but never forsook his faith in God.
- Job 13:15; 16:19; 19:25
3. Job kept his eyes fixed upon the end, that is, upon the Lord and the great hope of the Lord.
- The Lord carried Job through all his trials and temptations by blessing him with the very presence of God, Himself. Job endured, therefore so can we.

CONCLUSION:

1. The believer is to bear the afflictions of trials and temptations by focusing his/her eyes upon the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. God will deliver the believer with His very own presence as He did with Job. He will deliver us through all the trials and temptations of life, giving us the most victorious life ever imagined.
3. Matthew 10:22; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:13; 2:19; 5:9; Job 17:9