

A GRACIOUS GIFT

James 5:7-11

"An unguarded tongue is the chief threat to a life of patience and steadfastness for God."
Alec Motyer

Two Commands – Be _____ and steadfast. (7-8, 10-11)

| In suffering, be... | | |
|--|--|---|
| Patient – The self-restraint which does not hastily retaliate against a wrong* | Like a farmer who waits for the early and late rains | You wait for the _____ of the Lord |
| Steadfast – The temper which does not easily succumb under suffering* | Like the prophets and Job | You trust in the compassion and _____ of the Lord |

* R. J. Knowling

Why the Delay? (2 Peter 3:8-9)

1. God's _____ is not ours. (8)
2. God will not _____. (9a)
3. What appears to be delay is actually _____. (9b)

A Warning – _____ your tongue (9)

In what way should we imitate Job?

judgment

Negative – "so that you may not be judged" – _____

Positive – "the Judge is standing at the door" – _____

What does James want us to embrace?

1. Take special care to _____ during suffering or conflict.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

Isaiah 53:7

2. Suffering is a _____ from God.

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Philippians 1:29

Sanctification is God's getting us used to our _____.

God so values our wholehearted faith in future grace that he will, graciously, take away everything else in the world that we might be tempted to rely on – even life itself. His aim is that we grow deeper and stronger in our confidence that he himself will be all we need.

John Piper