

## **Digging Deeper: James 5:7-12**

Mind the Gap – Patience in Suffering  
by Robert Lee (Elder at MACC)

### **Day 1**

Pray for increased Heart Knowledge; then, read James 5:7-12:

“<sup>7</sup> Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup> You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. <sup>9</sup> Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! <sup>10</sup> Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. <sup>12</sup> Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned.”

### **Day 2**

This week’s lesson challenges us to learn or practice patience in our time of suffering. In verse 7a, James encourages us to be patient until a milestone, life-changing event occurs. What is this event? If you are living through circumstances that are causing you pain and suffering, I encourage you to let patience be the subject of your prayers and observe how God reveals His blessings upon your life and on the lives of those you love.

### **Day 3**

Pray for Spiritual Wisdom. The Bible contains nearly 25 verses regarding patience. Two of my favorites are: Romans 15:1 and Proverbs 15:18. Also note that “patience” is one of the characteristics of the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). “Head knowledge” is best when our minds are filled with the Word of God. If you are unsure about this, I pray that you read your Bible more often with an open mind and wait on the Lord to reveal His love for you, which is much more than you or I could ever comprehend.

### **Day 4**

Pray for Understanding. Read James 5:7b, and notice how the Bible provides a great example for us to follow. He tells us to observe the work of the farmer; how he uses skills (God’s gift) to fulfill his role in harmony with nature. Immediately afterwards, the farmer must “wait” on the Lord to complete his assignment. You are encouraged today to do all that you can with your God-given gifts. Once you have done all you can do, wait on the Lord so you can see how He completes your mission according to his perfect will. Hallelujah, amen!

**Day 5**

Pray for Spiritual Reasoning. In verse 8, James provides a warning to those who grumble with one another and the penalty for doing so. According to this passage, what is the penalty for grumbling and who is standing at the door when you do? Let God into your lives, especially in moments when tension rises, and sin is lurking. If you struggle in these areas, open your Bible and read about the lives of the major and minor prophets or turn to the Book of Job to see how he persevered through suffering. Be encouraged today knowing that the Lord is full of compassion and that "his mercy endures forever" (Psalm 118:1 & 29, Psalm 136, Jeremiah 33:11, etc.).

**Day 6**

Pray The Lord's Prayer. Finish reading James 5 through verse 12. Reflect today, on the life of Christ. Focus your thoughts on how He lived and what He endured (he became sin) for our sake. Take time to answer the following questions: Did Christ suffer, and did he practice patience during his life on earth? If your answer is "yes" to these questions, now think about the challenges in your life. Does it seem fair that we who call ourselves Christians should become more patient in our suffering? I pray that you answered yes. If you answered no, I pray that the Lord will strengthen you in this area. Amen.