



The Power of Patience

James 5:7-12

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I heard of an incident that happened on the freeway. A man's car had stalled, and most drivers were taking it fairly well except for one particular guy in a pickup. He laid down on his horn and wouldn't remove his hand. The driver of the stalled car walked back to the driver of the pickup and said, "I'm sorry, but I can't get my car started. If you'll go up there and try, I'll be glad to stay here and blow your horn for you."

4 DON'TS During Times of Adversity:

- 1) *Don't focus on the situation, or you'll become angry.*
- 2) *Don't focus on yourself, or you will be filled with self-pity.*
- 3) *Don't focus on someone to blame, or you'll begin complaining.*
- 4) *Don't focus on the present, or you'll miss the point of what God is wishing to achieve in your life.*

HOW TO DO RIGHT WHEN OTHERS DO YOU WRONG:

#1: BE PATIENT (5:8)

- The word for "patient" means "of long spirit" or "not losing heart" (makrothumeo). This word carries the idea of catching our breath for a long-distance run.

#2: BE PERCEPTIVE (5:8) - see things from God's view point

- Genesis 50:20, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."

#3: BE POSITIVE (5:9)

- Don't complain

#4: BE PERSISTENT (5:11)

- "ENDURE" in the Greek is hupomone and it means "to stay under the load"

#5: BE PRECISE (5:12) – be a person of integrity and honesty

- "swear" means "to take an oath"

The return of Christ:

- *"Be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord." (5:7)*
- *"Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near." (5:8)*
- *"Behold, the Judge is standing right at the door." (5:9)*

We learn more in our valley experiences than on our mountaintops! – Charles Stanley

The only way to get a testimony is to have a test!