

“Staying Power”
by Rev. John C. Tittle

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 5: 7-10 NRSVue

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Discussion:

1. Thoughts, questions, observations from the Scripture reading?
2. What was a difficult or annoying time of waiting for you?
3. What are some examples that we live in an impatient society?
4. How do you define patience? Which of these do you agree with? Disagree with?
 - a. God-given restraint
 - b. Resignation? Acceptance of fate?
 - c. Ambivalence? Passivity?
 - d. Waiting upon God
 - e. Be ready to act at the right time
 - f. Long-suffering, long-fused, long-tempered, long-view, slow to judge
 - g. other
5. Are there times we shouldn't be patient? When might that be?
6. How might patience help us to enjoy Point A, Point B, and the line in between more?
7. Who are some Bible characters that demonstrated patience?
8. Why are the ones that we love often the easiest to be impatient with?
9. 1 Timothy 1:16 talks about how Christ has the utmost patience with us. What are some ways at church and at home we can exhibit the utmost patience with one another?