August 26, 2007

JAMES 5:7-11

How do we respond when the righteous suffer & the wicked seem to flourish? How do we respond when we are oppressed for righteousness sake?

Be ***patient***.

- Respond with an attitude of self ***restraint***. Refuse to ***retaliate***.
  1 Peter 2:21-23
  A purposeful decision not to be controlled by self ***interest***.

- Refuse to become ***bitter*** or to develop a ***resentful*** spirit. (*Verse 9*)
  Complaining at others is one of the first signs we are becoming impatient.

- Keep pressing on, doing what is ***right*** no matter the consequences. (*Verse 10*)

Why should we respond that way?

1) Because you know ***Jesus is coming back***. (*Verse 7,8,9*)
   It won't ***always*** be this way.
   "The brevity of life grants power to abide, not an excuse to bail." *2 Corinthians 4:17; 11:24-28*

2) Because you know that ***God has a purpose***. (*Verse 7,11*)
   Psalm 50:15

3) Because you know the ***Lord's character***. (*Verse 11*)
   Whatever you are going through, He is "full of ***compassion*** & mercy."

When you rely on Him for the ***patience*** to endure even when you don't understand, your faith is real, your faith is ***strengthened***, and God is ***glorified*** through you.

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