



Be patient . . . this may take a while: James 5.7-11

1. "Delayed gratification" is one way to talk about the Bible. How so? Discuss. **OR** Why does our culture have such difficulty with the concept of delayed gratification. Can you give examples from our culture that demonstrate an inability to wait, and the need for having something now, now, now!

2. The Bible seems to assume that the Christian life will involve facing suffering and pain, out of which God will form character. How do you respond to this thought, and when you reflect on your own life, how is God bringing you to maturity? See. 2 Cor 1.6; 1 Thess 1.3; 2 Tim 3.10; Rev 1.9.

3. Farmers can't force the pace. They must be patient. Do you relate to farmers, in that they need patience? And if so, what in your life requires patience? Why is patience such an important virtue in the Christian life? See Rom 8.24-25; Rom 12.12; Eph 4.2; 1 Tim 1.16; 2 Tim 4.2; Heb 6.15; 2 Peter 3.9

4. **What can you do when there is no justice or freedom? The individual has to fight for it. If we give in to the law that the strong devours the weak, then we reduce ourselves to the level of animals. That's intolerable.** Jamal from "Paradise Now." What's the balance between standing up to injustice and patiently waiting for the Lord's deliverance. Discuss James' view before adding your own points of view.

5. **And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.** Romans 5.2. What does it mean to boast in the hope of the glory of God? What function does hope play in your life? What is hope associated with in a believer's life? See Matt 12.22; Rom 8.24; Rom 12.12; 2 Cor 1.10; 2 Cor 3.12; Eph 1.17-19; Col 1.27.