



**INTRODUCTION:** Patience comes from the Greek word *hupomone* meaning cheerful or hopeful endurance. Real spiritual progress is best measured by decades and lifetimes. There are no shortcuts in Christian growth. Consider the farmer. The farmer plows and plants the seed and then has to patiently wait for the harvest.

*James 5:7, "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."*

*Romans 5:3, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;"*

*II Corinthians 4:8-10, "8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body."*

## I. PATIENCE IS A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE (JAMES 1:2)

The word *temptations* in this verse primarily refers to trials. It has the idea of the gold refiner. When James tells us to count it all joy, he is broadening our perspective and telling us that when we have heartache and hardship and troubles to take a step back to make sure we are looking at it properly. He wants us to take our focus off of the circumstances and focus our attention on the orchestrator.

*Hebrews 12:1-3, "1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."*

*"The thing that amazed the heathen in the centuries of the persecution of Christians was that the martyrs did not die grimly, they died singing." – William Barclay*

## II. IT IS A MATTER OF PERSEVERANCE (JAMES 1:3)

James says that as we go through life and face these various trials and tribulations that life brings, keep it in the forefront of your mind that God is building patience in you. Know that it doesn't happen overnight. The writer of Hebrews (probably Paul) compared the Christian life to a marathon, not a sprint (Hebrews 12:1-2).

### A. SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE (HEBREWS 12:1)

The word *weight* in this verse is a medical term describing excess body weight. The same diligence that goes into exercising and dieting and sculpting the body to optimal performance is the same kind of diligence that is required in laying aside the things in our lives that will hinder us in our spiritual race.

### B. DON'T GIVE UP (HEBREWS 12:1)

### C. KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS (HEBREWS 12:3)

It's when we start looking at other people and deficiencies in their lives, or we get our eyes on circumstances that surround us or on temptations that we turn our eyes away from the Lord.

*I Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*

## III. IT'S A MATTER OF PERFECTING (JAMES 1:4)

The word *perfect* means fully developed. It means that it has reached its full potential. Every grace that is present in the Lord Jesus Christ should be manifested in the life of every believer. It is when we respond to trials and tribulations with the right attitude and with the right heart that we learn how to apply God's statutes to our lives and a change takes place conforming us to the image of Christ.

*Job 23:10, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."*

*"In times of trouble say, 'First: He brought me here; it is by His will I am in this strait place; in that I will rest. Next: He will keep me here in His love, and give me grace in this trial to behave as His child. Then: He will make this trial a blessing, teaching me the lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the grace He means to bestow. Last: In His good time He can bring me out again.'" – Andrew Murray*