

“Shelter in Place” (Waiting on God in Times of Need)

James 5:7-12

- I. Be Patient (5:7-8)** - ⁷ Therefore **be patient**, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Why WAIT? 1) Learn patience 2) Not trust in own power 3) Learn to trust God

Directives- 1. Be patient (v.7)

2a. Establish your hearts (v. 8; soil)

Establish (Gk sterizo)- to fix, to set, to cause someone to become more **firm, stronger or unchanging in attitude**; reliable, trustworthy and dependable in faith

2b. Water is the Word (v. 8)

Focus: the Coming of the Lord (Tit. 2:13; Jn. 16:33)

- II. Be Content (5:9-11)** - ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! ¹⁰ My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. ¹¹ Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended by* the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

Directive – Don’t grumble and complain – lest you be condemned

Focus: The Judge is at the door (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor 5:10)

- III. Be Honest (5:12)** – ¹² But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and *your* “No,” “No,” lest you fall into judgment.

Directive- Do not make oaths

Focus- Be known as a person who can be believed; will be judged if untruthful (JS of C)

Conclusion

1. How are you approaching being “sheltered in place”? Are you content and patient or anxious and upset?
2. How are you establishing (becoming steadfast and stronger) yourself in your faith?
Are you setting goals, growing in your faith or seeking to love others? Stay FIT!
3. Have you found yourself complaining? Find ways to take your eyes off of the circumstances and inconveniences and focus on the blessings and opportunities to connect with others.
4. Always be known as an honest person. In the midst of trials and difficulties, maintain your integrity. Represent Christ well.