

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

*JAMES*

These questions are for the **September 6, 2015** sermon, "The Long Wait" Please read the sermon passage (James 5:7-11) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline:

IN TIMES OF TRIAL, BE PATIENT . . .

1. **Looking toward the coming of the Lord** (7-8)
  - A. The early and late rains (trials) are needed to produce mature fruit.
  - B. We must learn to prop-up our weary hearts with the truths of Scripture.
  - C. Be patient--long suffering--as you wait upon the Lord and his timing.
2. **Waiting upon the judgment of the Lord** (9)
  - A. Careful! If you start to judge, you will turn on your Christian brother.
  - B. Resist talking about others during trials. Instead, talk to God about those trials.
3. **Witnessing in the name of the Lord** (10)
  - A. Consider what the prophets endured as they continued to speak of the Lord's faithfulness.
  - B. We do not need an explanation from God, but an example from God while we suffer.
4. **Trusting in the purpose of the Lord** (11)
  - A. Job (Job 19:25-27) continued to trust that his Redeemer lived, and that Job would see Him.
  - B. God is marching all time (including yours) to his perfect, appointed end.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: In what ways are you experiencing "early" or "late" rain in your life?
2. Based on #1, above: Would you say you are patient in your suffering right now? How is God using these rains to mature your fruit? If we are not careful we can just check-out and long for Christ to return. But God wants us to be faithful while we await the Lord's return. What is the difference between checking out while we wait, and being faithful while we wait?
3. Based on #2, above: How have you been critical and judgmental of a Christian brother or sister when you went through a time of suffering? Have you repented of that sin?
4. Based on #3, above: How has your suffering produced opportunities to witness? How are you getting better at seeing and taking opportunities to witness when you suffer?
5. Based on #4, above: You may never know the answer to the "why" questions behind your suffering. Are you okay with letting the "why" question go? In what way has the "who" question strengthened you as you have faced suffering?

Quote to consider: "Don't become comfortable in this world, become conformable to God's Word."

-Gary