

At The Door

2-15-26

James 5:9 (ESV)

Behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

The context of this verse is telling us not to grumble. However, the two previous verses tell us to be patient. We shouldn't grumble, but also, we should be patient. Why be patient? Because the Judge is standing at the door. Commentators agree that the Judge is Jesus. We are not asked to be patient just to show our longsuffering. We are asked to be patient because God has been doing a great work on our behalf and asking us to give HIM enough time to complete what HE has started. HE is almost finished and HE is standing at our door about to reveal it to us. Therefore, by exercising patience, we participate in the mighty work that God is doing on our behalf.

James 5:7–9 (ESV)

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ ... behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

Notice why we are to be patient:
Be patient – until the coming of the Lord.
Be patient – the coming of the Lord is at hand.
Be patient – the judge is standing at the door.
Certainly, we will see Jesus restore all things when HE returns to judge the earth, but here and other places in the Bible, we see that there are immediate applications indicating that Jesus will intervene in our current situations. Thus, HIS coming is at hand, immediate, and HE is standing at the door, now. There is a similar statement in: Philippians 4:4–5 (ESV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.

Rejoice, now, for the Lord is at hand, now. Our reasonableness is due to the fact that God’s mighty Hand is moving in our current situation. The Lord is always equally near HIS people. God even expresses this in the OT concerning Israel: Deuteronomy 4:7 (ESV)

For what great nation is there that has a god “so near” to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon HIM?

Thus, it is appropriate to make a similar application in James: “Be patient, behold, the Judge is standing at the door.” **We are patient because God is at work in our life and situation.**

We acknowledge that God is doing more than we can even imagine. James gives us an example not of a thief unexpectedly coming in the night, but of a farmer tending his fields so we can grasp the invisible work of God on earth. Thus in verse 7, James says, “See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.” The farmer plants the seed, then he waits for the rain. He then waits for the seed to germinate. He waits for the plant to break through the ground and bear fruit; only then can the harvest take place. **God tells us, “Be patient like this farmer, because the Judge is standing at the door.”** Brothers and sister, be patient, be ready because God is working in your life and your current situation. Remember the farmer could not see the seed germinating, but this is when the most substantial transformation is taking place underground out of sight. **Therefore, be patient during times when nothing seems to be happening.**

This when God is working the most substantial transformation in your life and in your situation.

God HIMSELF is being patient because HE is giving us time to develop and grow while HE prepares all the circumstances around us for the greatest possible blessing to accomplish HIS purpose. God HIMSELF is being patient until HE gets all HIS spiritual ducks in a row to accomplish HIS purpose.

2 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

And count the “patience” of our Lord as salvation -or- being safely rescued.

Based on the context the term salvation can have different applications such as safety and rescue. Here God is being patient for our benefit while HE gets all the pieces in place. Brothers and sisters, Jesus is standing at the door and at the proper time HE will knock and bring the harvest.

Revelation 3:20 (ESV)

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Being patient is allowing God time to work.

Actively being patient is reading the Word, humbling ourselves before God, loving Jesus, and asking HIM to lead us each day. We are motivated to do this, because the Judge is standing at the door.

God has already made us acceptable so that we may boldly come before HIS throne.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.