

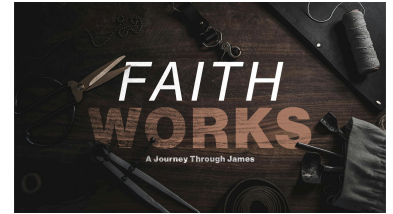
Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: Faith Works - A Journey Through James

Message: Part 13 - James 5:7-12 – Patience in Suffering

Speaker: Kevin Fricker

Date: February 9, 2025



Connect (30min)

1. Love Is

- Read [1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#) and [Romans 12:9-13](#), then open your time in prayer.
- When's the last time someone told you they love you?
When's the last time you told someone you love them?
- Do you know what [The Five Love Languages](#) are? Rank your *Love Languages* 1-5. (Reference p.3)
Words of Affirmation - Physical Touch - Receiving Gifts - Quality Time - Acts of Service

Message Discussion (45min)

1. Patient People

- What is the first characteristic of *Love* mentioned in [1 Corinthians 13:4](#)?
Why do you think the Apostle Paul chose that character quality to begin his description of *Love*?
- Share about a time you had to wait for something significant. (e.g., a job, a relationship, healing).
How did you handle it, and how did the waiting shape you?
- Who in your life would you describe as being patient, and why?
- **Sunday's Scripture** Read [James 5:7-12](#).


2. Patience When Life Is Out Of Control

- **Verse 7:** James compares patience to a farmer waiting for the harvest.
 - What can we learn from this agricultural analogy about trusting God's timing?
 - How does the analogy resonate with your current circumstances?
What "harvest" are you waiting for in your life?
 - Why is patience so hard?
 - Take a moment to search up the word 'patience' or 'patient' in the Bible.
openbible.info/topics/patience – What did you learn about patience?
- **Verse 8:** James reminds believers that "the Lord's coming is near."
 - How does focusing on Christ's return help us endure difficult circumstances?
 - What are some practical ways to strengthen your heart when you feel overwhelmed by life's pressures?

3. Patience When People Are Out Of Character

- **Verse 9:** James warns against grumbling against others during times of stress.
 - Why is it so easy to lose patience with others when we're under pressure? (e.g., H.A.L.T. - *Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired*)
 - How can we extend grace and patience to people in our lives who may be struggling in their own ways? What are some practical steps?

4. Patience When God Seems Out Of Reach

- **Verses 10-11:** James points to the Prophets and Job as examples of patience and endurance.
 - How do their stories encourage us to persevere through challenges?
 - What does [Job's story](#) teach us about God's compassion and mercy, even in suffering?
 - How have you experienced God's compassion and mercy during a time of suffering?
 -  **Read [Psalm 34:17-18](#).** Turn to a partner and share a time in your life where you sensed God's presence in a difficult circumstance.

5. Action Steps To Apply This Week

- **Reflection Exercise:** Take a moment to pray and ask God, *What are you teaching me in this moment?* Write down any insights.
- **Patience Practice:** Choose one area in your life—family, work, or personal goals—where you'll intentionally practice patience this week.
- **Encouragement & Prayer:** Identify someone who's going through a hard time; then encourage and pray for them to reflect God's patience and love. (A good opportunity to apply *The Love Languages* for them)

Prayer (15min)

*Break into groups of 3-4 people to enhance your sharing and prayer time.

> In response to our sharing and discussion... How can we Pray for you?

Share your needs and pray for one another. *Blessing-Influence-Presence-Protection*

> Who is one person in your life that you're praying for?

Share their needs and pray for them together. *Blessing-Influence-Presence-Protection*

February Forecast

- **Sunday Messages:**
 - 16 – James 5:19-20 – THEME: Salvation
 - 23 – Project 3:15 Weekend – Guest Speaker - Mark Mittelberg
- **Confirm the details for your next *Life Group* meeting.**
- **Share [Church Announcements](#) – [Project 3:15](#)...**
- **Challenge - Read through the Book of James** one more time before the end of our series. 15-20 mins.

LIVING OUT THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES AT HOME

Love Language	Actions	Communication	Avoid
Words of Affirmation	Spoken words Written cards and letters	Encouraging words Compliments Affirming spirit	Emotionally harsh words Undue criticism
Quality Time	Running errands Taking trips Doing things together Going on walks Sitting/talking at home	Quiet places with no interruptions Undivided attention One-to-one conversations	Too much time with friends or groups Isolation Gaps of time between meetings
Receiving Gifts	Giving gifts Giving time Remembering special occasions Giving small tokens	Private giving of gifts Pleasant facial expressions	Materialism Forgetting special events
Acts of Service	Assisting with house chores Ongoing acts of helpfulness Exchanging of chores	Say: "What can I do for you?" "I will stop and get..." "Today, I did... for you." Making a checklist	Forgetting promises Over commitment of tasks Ignoring
Physical Touch	Hugs Pats Touches Sitting close	Pleasant facial expressions Mostly non-verbal	Physical abuse Corporal punishment Threats Neglect

* Taken from Gary Chapman's *The Five Love Languages of Teenagers*

