

RESPOND (Application for this week) **WHAT** were the significant scriptures for you this week? (Write them out.)

WHY are those scriptures *significant to you* at this time in your life?

HOW can you practically apply what God spoke to you about this week? [Try to respond in terms of specific action steps, specific people, long-term plan.]

WHAT will be the time frame for your application?

(1) Start Date _____ (2) *Progress* Check Date(s) _____ (3) Finish Date _____
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WHO I can ask to hold me accountable for my application: _____

Sermon-Based Devotional

Lawrence Free Methodist Church

(Based on a Sermon by Pastor Alex Alexander on April 29, 2018)

Suggestion: You can write notes from the sermon on the back page of the worship guide – OR bring your own personal journal. Then use this Sermon-based Devotional to reflect upon and process the sermon through the coming week.

Series: The Bible Doesn't Say That

This week: ***“THE PATIENCE OF JOB”***

READ the following passages. **Mark what stands out to you.**

“The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” (Job 1:21)

“Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” (Job 2:10)

“Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, ‘A man is conceived’.” (Job 3:3)

“I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest; but trouble comes (Job 3:26).

*“What is my strength, that I should wait?
And what is my end, that I should be patient?”* (Job 6:11)

REFLECT Write your observations and thoughts from the above passages.

Job is a human-being in trouble:

- He lost his wealth and was plunged into poverty.
- He lost his children and was plunged into grief and loneliness.
- He lost his health and was plunged into pain and misery.

WHERE DOES “THE PATIENCE OF JOB” COME FROM?

The King James Version is the version that gives rise to this saying,

READ the following passages. **Mark what stands out to you.**

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job. (James 5:11)

Modern translations put it variously— “the steadfastness of Job”... “the endurance of Job”... “the perseverance of Job.”

“You have heard of Job’s patience, and you know how the Lord provided for him in the end. For the Lord is full of mercy and compassion. (The Good News Bible)

REFLECT Write your observations and thoughts from the above passages.

The word “patient” as it’s used here doesn’t mean what we think it means.

There are two Greek words used in this paragraph by James:

READ James 5:7-8 Mark what stands out to you.

“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 late rains. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

The word in the original Greek in these verses implies a *patient waiting*. But the word used in James 5:11 describing Job [on page 1], means an *active endurance* of suffering.

REFLECT Write your thoughts from James 5:7-8.

WHAT DID JAMES MEAN THEN ABOUT THE PATIENCE OF JOB?

First, we must understand that Job is an example of endurance, not patience.

Being patient involves passive waiting. Endurance also waits—but it is an active experience. Job is active all the while with his complaints, his questioning, his anger. Job is our example of faith under fire. He has, “*staying power*”. Job’s ability to endure suffering far exceeds the limits of patience.

A second lesson is that we have choices to make— even in the experience of suffering. Suffering is itself usually not a choice. There are times when we bring suffering upon ourselves; but even then, the degree of suffering may be greater than what is deserved. **Perseverance is “staying power.”**

Although suffering is not a choice, our response to suffering is.

This brings us to the third point. How do we do it? How are we to endure when we feel abandoned by God?

READ the following passages. Mark everything that stands out to you.

James 5:11 (The Message)

“You’ve heard, of course, of Job’s *staying power*, and you know how God brought it all together for him at the end. That’s because God cares, down to the last detail.”

The point is not that we discover that we can endure. Instead, we are to discover something greater.

In the **Book of JOB, Chapter 31**, Job does lots of complaining and questioning God:

- *Does not He see my ways and number my steps?*
- *When He makes inquiry, what shall I answer Him?*
- *Did He not fashion us in the womb?*
- *Oh, that I had one to hear me!*
- *Let the Almighty answer me!* (Job 31)

Continue marking everything that stands out to you.

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Dress for action like a man, I will question you, and you make it known to Me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?” (Job 38: 1-7)

“Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth. I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but will proceed no further.” (Job 40:4-5)

¹ Then Job answered the LORD and said: ² “I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. ³ ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

⁴ ‘Hear, and I will speak; I will question You, and You make it known to me.’ ⁵ I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You; ⁶ therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

(Job 42:1-6)

REFLECT Write your observations and thoughts from the above passages.

I.E. From Job 31 → Does not He see my ways and number my steps? – and Job 42:2 → “I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.”—it is clear that Job came to the realization that God is aware of my every move and every moment in my life – AND that no one and no thing can prevent His purposes from happening in my life.

That is what we are to discover— the power and eternal goodness and greatness of our God...

- a God who is compassionate...
- a God who is our hope even in the midst of tragedy...
- a God who cannot be contained in a box, even when God seems distant and hidden.