

So we're going through James...a quick hitting letter to churches **that** helps us see one big thing:

What happens when faith in Christ and life collide? We simply answer. FAITH WORKS...IN us and through us.

TONIGHT is all about WAITING – FAITH WAITS – Here's our big question....really a huge question for us.. SCREEN/CARD
What are we called to do when we can't yet have what we desperately want and desire? But then this leads to another.
What is it exactly that I want and desire? Cause the reality is this...James is writing to believers...he assumes one thing.
 That they, in the middle of the doubt, suffering and issues are wanting and desiring for JESUS TO COME BACK.
 Is that really what we're wanting and desiring most? But either way...tonight is all about the WAITING.

We don't like that word do we? **Just wait...Wait for it...Hold on...in a little while...** We don't wait well too often.
THINK ROAD TRIP WITH THE FAM - you guys have phones, ipads or laptops... know what we had? **we had windows.**
Think about fast food – one line wasn't fast enough, we needed 2. And now...folks get me before I get to the speaker.
Think about information...20 years ago we would have to work hard to find out who won the world series in 1978.
 But now I can find out in like what.....**USE SIRI TO ASK**....Ah....the Yankees in 6 over the Dodgers.

Everything is moving faster....God has his own pace....while things change quickly for us...God is constant, unchanging.
 So this call in James tonight is a bit tough for us. But James helps us see Why and How we wait...a truth and then help.

***READ James 5:7-12** - So let's just walk through the passage...What is the WHY and HOW of waiting?

***We Wait because The Lord is doing a work!** "the precious fruit of the earth" - "The coming of the Lord.

Like a farmer who plants and then waits on the results...we too....in this way...we wait. **V. 8** This is hard.....right?

But God says....plant the seed, wait.....water it....wait....pull the weeds....wait...build a scarecrow...wait

But then that next line.....**"ESTABLISH YOUR HEARTS"** what does that mean....

it means strengthen, ground it in something firm, sure.

So **James says...Establish your heart....PLACE THE ROOTS OF THAT HEART IN THE CERTAINTY THAT GOD'S PROMISES ARE SURE.**

This is huge because the enemy of patience is impatience....we know that well right?

We're still the kids at christmas....i want it now. When I don't get it, I have a tendency to turn into 6 yr old Chris.

We're smart enough to know that waiting is not the only option....we can choose to NOT WAIT.

When that happens it bleeds into our life...it produces some behaviors that may not be good. *** (Read vv.9-11)**

James is like listen.....when impatience starts to come you'll grumble....like that little kid.

But look at Job....WOW.....Job lost it all...it was bad...but he waited...and said what? The Lord gives, takes away, blessed be

So we see the truth of WHY WE WAIT: **because the Lord is doing a work. His promises are sure!**

But when that truth gets hard to see and we just get tired of waiting on God to do his work or we can't see him working...

What do we do then???? Follow Job's example...

***Praise while you wait don't grumble, gripe or hate.** _ What a simple yet real application and point.

James says in the midst of suffering **or** storms **or** you not getting what you want or maybe you just can't see it...**WAIT**

And as we wait...**praise the Lord**...don't let it turn into you griping, judging folks and hating on them.

But then v. 12 – "ABOVE ALL" – Don't Swear.....what? Like don't cuss? NO.

James is saying this....be patient because impatience brings the temptation to make false, empty promises.

Don't go there...instead: *** While you wait simply say what you mean and mean what you say. No fake promises**

There's no place for empty promises and false words from a people who are patiently waiting and passionately following

So what does all this sound like when we put it together?

***MAIN FOCUS: A heart that seeks God will patiently wait and passionately follow. Be Patient, continue to follow.**

it's easy to see the text say that - No need to overexplain that. Patience is the key. But for me, this leads to a bigger issue.

Let's go back to the big question: What are we called to do when we can't yet have what we desperately want and desire?

The hard part is where that question leads us. **WHAT DO WE DESPERATELY WANT AND DESIRE?** We must go there.

It's the list you did: What are you pursuing? What are you chasing? What happens when you catch it? What then?

Now, those things may not be bad. What would make things on the list bad?

THIS: When those things replace Jesus on the throne of your heart? When they become THE pursuit, not just a pursuit.

It doesn't mean it's easy...but when Christ is THE pursuit...we have wisdom, strength and PATIENCE in the other pursuits.

IF Jesus isn't King of our heart we won't be patient....we won't wait....we'll give in, go another route, find another way.

IF Jesus isn't THE pursuit...we'll kick him to the curb of our heart, go through motions and go get what WE WANT.

BUT When Jesus comes into Focus, when he sits on the throne of our heart/life he then becomes your Focus.

Then we wait patiently, and as we want we passionately follow him & bend everything we do to be done for HIS NAME.

Allow Christ to be the end....allow him to be the joy...allow him to be the reason you do all you do.

So tonight – we do cleaning...I check my pursuit – my heart – my focus.....**Is Christ IN Focus and is Christ MY Focus?**

Patience in the pursuits of life can only come when Christ is on the throne of your heart and life....it only come when he is your focus.

So as we leave I pray we all leave with hearts seeking after God....patiently waiting and passionately following.

GROUP TIME - ?'s on card