**Faith Does Week Twelve**

**Faith Longs**

**Study Questions:**

1. Think of an achievement that you are very pleased with in your life. What elements involved being diligent, patient and over-coming obstacles?
2. James is talking a lot about patience. According to verse 7, what did people need to be patient about?
3. How does the analogy of waiting for a crop to harvest compare to waiting for Jesus’ return?
4. Why does 5:7 begin with the phrase “Be patient, therefore…”? How does 5:7-9 follow logically after 5:1-6? Hint: Think in terms of facing a judge.
5. In 5:7-11, mark every reference to God with a circle. What does each mention tell us is true about God? List what you find below:
6. Why do we need patience and steadfastness if “the coming of the Lord is at hand” and “the Judge is standing at the door”?
7. Do you believe that the Lord’s coming is near? Why or why not? If so, how do you feel about it?
8. What is it about Job’s suffering that means James chooses him as an example of steadfastness?
9. James says in verse 11 that those who persevere through suffering are “blessed.” What does he mean by that? C.f. Ch 1:2-4, 12
10. James warns (above all) against swearing oaths. Jesus expresses the same idea in Matthew 5:34-37. Compare these two teachings. Are Jesus and James telling us we should never, under any circumstance, swear oaths? Explain your answer.
11. How would you summarise this section in a short statement?
12. Close with reflecting on Ch 1;12.

**James 5 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**Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. **10**As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11**Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**12**But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

SWEDISH Method