



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Get Fit*
Message: *Stand Firm*

Scripture: *James 5:7-12*

Date: August 31-September 1,
2019

—[LET'S START]—

Pastor Kyle's message this week focused on the topic of patience. What are some of the things that are most trying to you when it comes to patience? In other words what makes you most irritated or impatient?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.

2. Read James 5:7-8.

James encouraged his readers to be patient in suffering because the Lord's return is near. It's been almost 2,000 years since those words were written. What do you think James meant? How does the return of Christ impact how we live our lives? How does this relate to patience?

How do James' words about farming relate to patience? Can you think of a time that you have experienced God's goodness in the midst of waiting?

3. Read James 5:9-12.

Pastor Kyle spoke about how these verses show us that patience isn't passivity. How do James' words about the prophets of old and Job show us that patience isn't passive? What are some of the things that prophets and Job had to endure? What did they do in their trials?

4. Read Romans 5:3-5.

What does the Apostle Paul teach us about suffering in these verses? How does this relate to patience? How can patience in suffering produce hope in us?

5. Pastor Kyle ended his sermon by saying, "I believe the community around us is facing a great need for hope. God has given us Jesus and he has given us each other . . . I believe that if we do what James calls us to do, we will be people who will put our faith into action and we will be an epicenter of irresistible hope for our community." How are we as a LifeGroup living this out?

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—[LET'S ACT]—

In his sermon, Pastor Kyle encouraged us to consider what our next steps are in sustaining our own spiritual fitness this fall. What would you say are the next steps that you need to take in your walk with Christ? How can we help each other take the next steps in our walk with Jesus?

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- The Christians that James wrote to had been scattered around the Roman world and they were facing all kinds of hardships for their faith.
- James instructed these Christians to be patient. There are four things we need to know about patience.
 - Patience is a perspective.
 - Jesus is coming back, and his coming is near.
 - This means that the return of Christ is the next thing to come in God's plan of redemption.
 - What matters most is for us to tell others about Jesus and how they can have a relationship with Him.
 - Patience is a process
 - God is working, even when you can't see it.
 - In the midst of hardship we can be hopeful that God might bring about something beautiful in the future.
 - Patience isn't passivity
 - In hardship, prophets of old kept doing what God called them to do, even when it was difficult.
 - Hardship is a challenge, and James tells us to be like Job when facing it.
 - Job, instead of trying to solve his suffering himself, stood firm in his faith in God and waited for God to act instead of acting on his own.
 - In suffering we can, and we should, cry out to God and let him know exactly how we feel. This helps take the focus away from us and onto God.
 - Patience produces hope
 - The hope isn't just for us. God may be using the situation to bring hope to many more people.
 - Being faithful through hardship is similar to committing to a plan for physical fitness. Both requires patience.

—[NOTES]—
