

PATIENCE IN SUFFERING

LESSON 10: JAMES ON BUSINESS

CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

John was certain about accepting the offer last year to manage the new Denver office. He had processed and prayed extensively before deciding to move his wife and 3 kids across the country to start over in a new city. John was confident he had heard God say to *go*.

Now things look different. The excitement of building a new office has worn off and he now feels the responsibility to perform. The leads and talent in the local market are harder to come by than John thought. There is a lot of competition in the Denver area, and it seems as though everyone had the idea to start a new office at the same time. Meanwhile, the kids are not adjusting to their new school as well as they hoped and making new friends has proved difficult. Now John is second-guessing his decision to move. He is frustrated and scared of what will become of his family if this opportunity doesn't work out.

- Q. What would you advise John to do?
- Q. Is it okay for John to doubt? What is the root of this doubt?
- Q. How are we tempted to react when things don't work out like we planned?
- Q. How does knowing God's direction help in a time of stress?
- Q. What experience have you had that has given you healthy perspective when going through trials?

JAMES 5:7-12

⁷ *Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!*

¹⁰ *Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.*

¹² *Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.*

- Q. What else does James say about trials?
- Q. Why is patience and perseverance an indicator of spiritual maturity?

- Q.** Why are we to be patient? For what? (See 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 and Galatians 6:9-10)
- Q.** In what ways are we tempted when we face trials at work?
- Q.** In what ways can blessing come through trials? (See Matthew 5:11-12)
- Q.** What is swearing an indication of in our lives?

1 CORINTHIANS 1:4-9

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GALATIANS 6:9-10

⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

MATTHEW 5:11-12

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.