

# Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

**Pastor: Steve Bishop**

## **May 1, 2016 – Patience Gap**

Amazon is now delivering packages to your house with drones, because the two day normal delivery is now too long! And in Dallas, there are now billboards for the different hospitals, posting the ER waiting times! Can you imagine driving around to find the ER with the shortest wait time? Just how badly do you need that ER? And most of us would admit that we're not impatient, we just hate to wait!

The best way to learn patience is to put yourself in situations that require it.

### **James 5**

**7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming.** Two meanings – the second coming like He REALLY shows up, and until you clearly see God in the thing you are impatient about.

***See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn (to soften up the ground for plowing) and spring (to push up the crop) rains.***

Farmers keep working even though they don't know what is going to happen, they are a great illustration of patience.

**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!** Jesus comes as a Judge, not only to judge the world, but also to assess the faithfulness of Christians. **2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.** In light of this, we cannot allow hardship to make us unloving towards each other.

**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 (He feels your pain.) and mercy. (He wants to solve your problems in the right time)...every time you get impatient, try to insert these two things.**

***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.***

The Jews of James’ time made distinctions between “binding oaths” and “non-binding oaths.” Oaths that did not include the name of God were considered non-binding, and to use these oaths was as way of “crossing your fingers” behind your back when telling a lie.

We do this when we get impatient and try to make things happen. To lie is to not trust in God.

The Cure for being impatient...

### ***Philippians 4***

#### ***REMAIN CALM***

***Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.***

***Don’t let your patience be determined by your circumstances, when your patience goes so will your character. The Lord is near. God has not gone anywhere.***

#### ***REMOVE ANXIETY***

***Do not be anxious (impatient) about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God***

But in every situation ...marriage, house, jobs, relationships

Do this instead...

In every situation

By prayer (all communication with God)

Petition (asking God to directly do something)

Thanksgiving (humbly admitting that whatever God does it is right)

#### ***RETHINK YOUR REQUEST***

***Present your requests to God***

PRESENT = reveal! Greek word in context means to solve a mystery. Nothing is a mystery to God, so it must be written to me and you. Spend the time necessary to understand for yourself and tell God what you’re REALLY impatient/anxious about

That is the solution for anxiety.

Uncertainty brings to the surface our deepest prayers. We seldom pray at the level of our deepest fear.

God here is what I want and here is why I want it.

***And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

(not of circumstances) which transcends understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus...

Guard – stand watch over

The reason we are so anxiety ridden is we have not allowed God to stand watch over our hearts and minds. We want him to guard our job, our health, kids, marriage...

Our fears parallel our deepest desires

Have you and I made our deepest requests known to God...

God, if you don't, I'm afraid that \_\_\_\_\_(fill in the blank!)