



**SERIES: FEBRUARY – MARCH FAITH IN REAL LIFE**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Thursday, 03/24/2022**

**Scripture: James 5:7-8**

**TITLE: That Four-Letter Word**

Do you know what four-letter word is offensive to me? Believe it or not, I will actually say it here. The word is waiting. “Wait” is one of the hardest words to hear for anyone. It requires faith and patience. Those are two things that are hard to maintain the longer the waiting period is.

If today you’re struggling with waiting today, James has a message for you in James 5:7-8 (CSB).

Therefore, brothers and sisters, be patient until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth and is patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, because the Lord’s coming is near.

In the first 7 verses of James 5, James has been addressing the evil rich who are corrupt in their accumulation and self-indulgent with its use. And now, in verse 7, James shifts from the persecutor to the persecuted.

James says, “brothers and sisters, in the face of such gross treatment and behavior, be patient until the Lord returns.”

I told you, “wait” is a four-letter word. When the doctors removed the tumor from my son’s skull, they said, “you’ll have to wait for the results.” I wanted answers now, but we had to be patient. James says, “Wait just like the farmer who plants their crops and waits for the harvest. Be patient. Trust God for the outcome.”

Waiting is only possible when the one you’re waiting on is trustworthy.

We are all told to wait. We’re told to wait for biopsy results. We’re told to wait on pay raises. We’re told to wait for justice in the courts. We’re told to wait for our coffee! Waiting patiently is hard for any of us. But when we are waiting for the Lord, we can be patient because He is trustworthy.

James says, wait! “Strengthen your hearts because the Lord’s coming is near.”

My kids recently asked me, “Do you think Jesus is coming soon? It’s been a long time of waiting.” They’re right. It has been a long time. And yes, I really do believe His return is imminent. So our job today is t

o live like it.

That means we wait with anticipation for the return of the King and live intentionally, so He will find us faithful in all we do.

So here's my challenge for you today. I want you to admit why it's hard to wait on God. We're all doing it. Whether it's the return of Jesus, the uncertainty of the diagnosis, or the job insecurity, we are all waiting on God. Admit why it's tough. And then ask God for the strength to wait.

Being a Christian isn't easy, but it is full of hope and strength. We simply need to ask, receive, and believe it. When we wait patiently on God, He will in the day for us.