



### Readings for this week:

Monday	Reading Eph 6 Pray for Vivienne Best (starting studies at NTC again)
Tuesday	Reading Phil 1 Pray for Mark & Joanne; & Tom Bolton (at University)
Wednesday	Reading Phil 2 Pray for Audrey Bolton & family
Thursday	Reading Phil 3:1–4:1 Pray for Jack & Leah Bolton
Friday	Reading Phil 4:2–23 Pray for Robert Bond & Annette
Saturday	Reading: Catch up Pray for Sandra Burke & family
Sunday	Reading Col 1:1–23 Pray for Josh, Molly, Miley-Rose, Jonah & Ezra Jenkinson

**NOTE:** If you would like to be on a rota to be invited to meet in our Sanctuary for one of our *live streamed Sunday services*, please do let us know by phone, text or email. Places are limited owing to Covid-19 government regulations.

### Prayer requests:

- Pray for Vivienne Best, recently bereaved; and now returning to her studies at NTC
- Pray for Huw Jones, as his College Placement has now commenced
- Please pray for the Rev Michael Kane, Debbie his wife, and son, Mikey
- Pray for our new church members: Norma W, Colin D, John & Ann B
- Pray that our ballot for the calling of a new pastor runs smoothly and that together we can seek the Lord's will for our church

This Sunday has been a long-awaited and prayed for day. Every church member should receive their postal ballot papers by tomorrow at the latest, to enable them to vote on whether Rev Michael Kane should become our pastor in February 2021.

We certainly enjoyed Mick's ministry last Sunday and I hope that you, like me, felt the blessing of God upon us. If you missed this service, please go to our website and click 'Digital Church' on the left, then on the right select the 'Recent Talks' message entitled, 'The Father'. You can also go to YouTube and type in 'Brooklands Church of the Nazarene' and choose the broadcast 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020. It has already received over 150 views, so I think most people will have watched it. Our sincere prayers are with all those church members eligible to take part in this ballot.

So much of what we have been doing recently has been about the future; and future plans for pastor and people. However, the other day while trying to tidy up, I was clearing out a number of things from my study and I came across old articles and papers I have kept 'for a rainy day', when I might be able to use them again. Amongst them was an article written by someone who many years ago faithfully attend our church. His name was Bernard Leusby and his wife's name was Marjorie. They moved to Formby, eventually, widowed, Bernard moved into sheltered accommodation (and aged 96, he went to be with the Lord in 2015). The article was a 'Bible Skim' to help people see the whole picture of the 'Message of the Gospel'.

It reminded me that churches have both a history to be *thankful for* and a future to be *hopeful about*. For many years (until Bernard died) he would write and assure us of his prayers for everyone and my ministry; he would also send a donation to support our work. A few people reading this will remember Bernard & Marjorie. They were lovely people of faith and contributed so much to our church. How we thank the Lord for people like this - past and present!

In addition to this, we sing songs of praise in anticipation of blessings destined for our church, God willing, in the decades to come. The *next thirty years* can be the most productive ever because of our careful, prayerful, and God-directed-planning of the last eighteen months. We should see these as momentous days. May the Lord raise up people from amongst us to do great exploits for the Kingdom!

To this end, I thank you all for all you have been doing to help us prepare for the next generation. Blessings to one and all... **Grace & Peace!**



**Message:** *Patience: The Three Ways.* **Readings:** Isaiah 40: 1-8; James 5: 7-11

My earliest recollection of **'waiting patiently'** was as a child sitting with my mum in the local doctor's surgery. It was on the main street of our small town. People were packed in tight in the cramped foyer – now that I think about it, a really unhealthy environment when people had colds in the middle of winter! There were no booking appointments – you just turned up. When the next person arrived, a few people would volunteer to let them know the latest order of patients to see the doctor; usually with the words, **'You're after me!'** I think that for most of us we tolerate waiting; we do not *love* it; but *I wonder if God has a greater purpose embedded in it.* Like in Psalm 40: "I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry." (Psalm 40:1) There are three ways to wait for something, and the First Way is:

### 1. Waiting that is done *Patiently*

I am struck with James' economy of words here in this final chapter. He writes in verse 7, **'Be patient,** then, brothers, until the Lord's coming.' (James 5: 7) So, he isn't talking about being patient until Christmas comes; or until your birthday arrives – or even until some project or major life change dawns. The strength of what James says about **'patience'** is linked to the **'Lord's coming'**. I tell you – that is **real** patience! To put it another way – Patience is one of the ways we are called upon to express our faith. **Faith, like patience,** only works when we are in it **for the long haul!** The important link between Faith and Patience is also extended to **'Hope'**. Our Hopes and acts of faith are rarely realized immediately. Usually, they require inordinate amounts of time... Perhaps that is why James opens his letter talking about **'perseverance'**.

**"Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."** (James 1:4) Other translations have the word, **'steadfastness'**. If this sounds like an impossibility, listen to the next illustration James presents us with. **'See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.'** (Jam 5: 7b)

Waiting for the Lord to return is the *same kind* of patience that a Farmer needs as he waits for Harvest and the autumn rain after a long hot and dry summer. He is waiting for *something God has promised.*

When setting the alarm at church, I have to push in the code and then - **wait for the beep** before pushing another button on the keypad. If I am in a rush, the two-second wait for that beep seems a long time! Someone has said that we are living in a 'microwave generation' – more and more we seem to want what we want sooner rather than later. But in the spiritual realm, this is not always the case. This is where we come to a second, and rather important, point...

### 2. Waiting that is done *Expectantly*

The next illustration James gives us is of the Bible character, Job. He was a man who exhibited this type of patience. Even through his many afflictions, *he chose to wait on the Lord;* and yes, *patience is a choice.* **"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."** (James 5:11) Job always believed he was in the hands of God. In one sense, Job is the ultimate servant, and the God he believed in, the ultimate Master. Though he did not know what would happen to him in this world, he did – ultimately – expect the Lord to bring about the best possible outcome.

It is perhaps famously best expressed in Job's succinct statements of faith – **'Even though he slay me, yet will I trust in Him'**. (Job 13: 15) and, **"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my body has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;"** (Job 19:25–26) One commentator writes, 'The word for *trust* used here means properly **to wait, stay or delay**; and it usually conveys the idea of *waiting with expectation*. The sense here is that *his expectation or hope was in God!*'

To be honest, at other times - waiting on the Lord can be like watching grass grow; and we can be tempted to think - when is it ever going to happen? However, I have to say that often I have looked out of my kitchen window and thought – wow, *I need to cut the grass again* – yet, it only seems like a couple of days since I did it! **Waiting is different in different seasons.** Grass grows quickly in the summer months and very slowly in the winter months! Perhaps we could choose to wait upon the Lord like looking at and listening to an old-fashioned grandfather clock. You can't see the hands move, but with each tick-tock, you know that time is slipping by. The truth is, God is working all the time with our best interests in mind **but** moving at His own pace. I sometimes think that **'Patience' is just about understanding God's pace,** as opposed to our pace.



### 3. Waiting as a *Testimony*

Verse twelve, in this last chapter of James, is often thought by many people to be out of place here. What have swearing oaths got to do with these topics of faith or patience? The fact that James starts the verse with the words, 'Above all...let your Yes be yes, and your No, no!' elevates what he is about to say.

The Psalmist writes,

***"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand."*** (Ps 40:1–2)

This *Patience* is filled with *testimony*! It was a big 'Yes'; he knew the Lord would not let him down.

I am reminded that 'Simeon, who was righteous and devout', was waiting for 'the consolation of Israel' and is mentioned in the story of Christ's Nativity. He was an old man. His waiting had been rewarded. It was *the duration of his wait* that **emphasized his faith**, not the speed with which the event came to pass! Which is the greater faith – is it, *Believing and getting it immediately?* Or, *Trusting God to decide when it will happen?* **What is the Lord asking you to wait for these days?**

Both Jesus and James spoke of the importance of plain honest words. Hebrews chapter 11, the 'faith chapter', tells of those who waited patiently and did not receive the promised reward in their lifetime . . . **But what a testimony their lives were!** The writer strikingly comments 'the world was not worthy of them...'

Then the next chapter opens with these words,

***"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*** (Hebrews 12:1–2)

**Here are Three Ways** to walk the talk: do it *Patiently*, do it *Expectantly* and *as a Testimony* – and many will follow. Amen.