

## Follow Up Questions from message on Sunday, August 20, 2017

### Genuine Christianity: In Between

#### Re-read: James 5:7-11

1. One key question that genuine faith requires is this: What do you do when you find yourself in a set of circumstances and there is no way to change it? Can you name the last time you have found yourself wrestling with this question?
2. When we find ourselves in this 'inbetween' place or stage of life it is easy to become envious of others who seem to have a 'wrinkle-free' life. When have you had an internal battle caused by comparing yourself to others?
3. We believe or tell ourselves lies like "I will never be happy again." Rate from 1 (I'm miserable) through 5 (walking on clouds) your sense of contentment or happiness?
4. What prayer concern would make a difference for you this week in light of number 3?
5. The good news of the gospel found throughout the New Testament is threefold: God is not absent, God is not apathetic, and God is not angry with you. Which of these three do you think might be most important to share with your family, friends and others?
6. **James 5:8; You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.** When do you get most impatient? Why? How do you strengthen your heart?
7. Scholars debate if James thought here in verse 8 that the Lord would come in his fullness with the New Age, or as the Holy Spirit comes to us each day, daily. What, if any, is the difference between the two?

When you feel stuck because of circumstances out of your control, try repeating the following

- **I *can* be happy again.** Sometimes we just need to hear this said out loud.
- **Something good *can* come from this.** You don't have to be able to see it or imagine it something good can come from this.
- **God *can* give purpose to my pain.** With God all things are possible even finding purpose in your pain.

Which of these three statements are most relevant for you this week? Why?