

Fruit on the Vine: Patience Galatians 5:16-24

INTRODUCTION

One of the places the impact of the good news of Jesus is most evident is in and through the lives of those who embody its message.

In our consideration of the fruit of the Spirit, we have arrived at **patience**, which is arguably one of its most frequently tested facets. In a hurried culture, hardly a moment goes by when our patience isn't tested by a crisis, interruption, or bump in the road. **Life is full of obstacles, and we can either fret and fume our way through all of them, or we can learn God's way of patience.**

I. Patience: _____

What is patience? Patience in the Bible includes the ideas of **endurance, steadfastness, longsuffering, and perseverance**. It also includes the idea of being slow to anger, and then, of course, the Bible also speaks in terms of waiting.

Definition: Patience refers to the Spirit produced quality of mind that _____ us to take everything in good part and not to be easily _____. It is the Spirit produced _____ to put up with other people even when that is not an easy thing to do and to _____ ongoing hardship while anticipating a future _____ from God.

God is a patient, long suffering, forgiving God, and part of the fruit that He creates in the lives of those He redeems reveals itself in that very characteristic. Paul's point is **clear: if God has been so long-suffering with us, should we not display this same grace in our relationships with one another? This quality should characterize the life of every believer.**

II. Patience: _____

A. _____ (Psalm 30:5; Lamentations 3:25-26;
Romans 8:24-25)

How do we deal with the waiting? Whenever we find ourselves asking the "How long?" question, we need to _____ on the Lord and learn to _____ His timing.

B. _____ (Romans 12:12)

Whenever we find ourselves asking the "Why?" question, we need to be _____ in suffering and learn to _____ God's purposes.

C. _____ (Ephesians 4:1-2; Colossians 3:12-13)

Whenever we find ourselves asking the "How in the world?" question, we need to _____ people the way He loves us with the love He _____.

III. Patience: _____

A. _____ how incredibly _____ God
is with _____ (Psalm 103:13-14;
1 Timothy 1:12-17)

B. _____ that your _____ life is not _____
but yet to _____ (2 Cor 4:17-18; James 5:7-8)

C. Be _____ to _____ (Psalm 103:8)

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this **morning**? Let me leave you with some practical reminders of how we can bear, with the Spirit's help, the fruit of patience in our lives:

1. _____ **God's timing**

2. Trust God's _____

3. Use your 'wait' _____