

Patience

October 24, 2021

When I was a kid, I remember having a record with the song – Have Patience. The lyrics went something like:

Have Patience, have patience, don't be in such a hurry! When you get in-patient, you only start to worry! Remember, remember, that God is patient too, and think of all the times when others have to wait on you!

While there is an aspect of patience that comes to waiting for something, patience involves so much more. It is one piece of the fruit of God's spirit that lives within us (Gal 5:22-23) – "love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control". But have you ever considered how the components of the fruit (singular, not plural) play a part together?

If I were to try and define the word patience it would be something like – waiting (sometimes for unknown periods of time), with self-control and without complaining for something or someone to come about, and many times, over matters for which you have little to no control.

For us to be patient requires a reliance on the other parts of God flowing out of us through the Spirit he has placed to dwell within us.

- We must exhibit love towards those that may anger or frustrate us.
- We must find joy in the circumstances in which we find ourselves in... **today**...
- We must be at peace with who we are, whose we are, where we are, and what we have.
- We must show kindness towards those that are difficult to get along with and remember that we likely do not know the full circumstances of the lives of others.
- We must focus on the goodness of God that we have been blessed to see, be part of, witness to, and the rich grace that has been given to us.
- We must be faithful, over long periods of time, to serve God, serve our fellow man, and look forward to the promise / hope that only God provides.
- We must remain gentle in our interactions with people – our fellow man that God also made in his own likeness. It is easy to lash out at others but requires great strength to draw on the gentleness of God living in us when dealing with people.
- We must be full of self-control and avoid the pitfalls of allowing Satan to convince us that the easier, faster path to self-indulgence or selfish behavior is the better way.

These things working together help bring us patience – the type of patience that God extends to us (1 Tim 1:12-17).

2 Pet 3:9 "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

Heb 10:36 "You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive the will of God, you will receive what he has promised."

Psalms 37:7 "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes"

Eph 4:2 "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient with one another in love"