



Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: I Choose: Week 8 (November 19, 2023)

*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only" (James 1:22). Step 1: **GATHER** with your family or group. Step 2: **REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. Step 3: **PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

DISCUSSION STARTER

Psalm 40 says, "I waited patiently for the Lord" and continues with words of worship. Share a time how has God met you in the waiting? Thank and praise Him for His patient love and goodness to you.

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Jeremiah 17:7; Romans 12:1-2, 12; Hebrews 4:16. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com) or *Blue Letter Bible* (blueletterbible.org), study through this scripture before responding to the following questions. Pastor Sam defined patience as the ability to wait, or demonstrate restraint despite facing difficulties, or to suffer without complaining or becoming annoyed. With that in mind, ask yourself these questions: Are you willing to restrain yourself from taking control in difficult situations? Or is your first reaction to take control of the situation? Can you suffer without getting upset or complaining about your situation? How does the culture today view patience? Do your social media accounts reflect a heart of patience? Does it represent the character of Christ? What is at the heart of patience? Before you speak up or send that text or email, do you stop and pray? Why are we to live our lives as a living sacrifice to the Lord? In order to not conform to the way the world thinks and acts, where should our confidence be placed? What is confidence? Do you believe God can handle your situation? How can we be patient in trouble? What did Paul say we were to do in those troubling situations? How do we endure the pressure and remain under the weight of our burden?

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Ephesians 4:2-4. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com) or *Blue Letter Bible* (blueletterbible.org), study through this scripture. What is our calling on earth as Christians? How do we demonstrate that? How do we demonstrate godly patience? In what area of your life are you struggling to demonstrate patience? Is there a particular person with whom you find it difficult to be patient? How does your impatience manifest itself: Anger? Annoyance? Sarcasm? Judgment? Discontentment? What's the underlying reason for your impatience: Pride? Control? Comfort? Fear? Selfishness? Distrust?

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Psalm 37:7-9; Proverbs 16:32; Psalm 27:14; Exodus 14:13-14. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com) or *Blue Letter Bible* (blueletterbible.org), study through this scripture. What are the consequences of worrying? (37:8) What will be the results of trusting in the Lord? What are the benefits of trusting in the Lord and seeking righteousness? What advice in this Psalm, about trusting God, would you like to work on? What concern of yours can you entrust to the Lord in prayer? How can you make sure your priority lies in seeking to please God? What is one thing you can do to entrust your life, family, and future to God? Spiritual patience is waiting. Is it passively waiting or actively waiting? Discuss. How are you doing in your waiting? Patience is courage. What is godly courage? Where is your confidence placed? Patience is strength. Is it easy to be patient? Who is fighting our battles? Do you believe God is working even when we don't see it? Discuss.

DOING THE WORD

Make a list of those things or people challenging your patience. In prayer, open your heart and hands and surrender them to the Lord. What is He saying to you about your list? Invite Him to give you more of His Spirit and to help grow in patience. Spend some time in prayer, personally, asking the Holy Spirit to suggest any unconfessed sin. Confess that sin to Jesus and thank Him for His forgiveness and His patience with you.