

LORD, I WANT PATIENCE, AND I WANT IT RIGHT NOW!

Devotional #5



Bishop Talmadge J. Thomas Lead Pastor
City of Zion, the Mt. Zion Church

Foundational Scriptures:

Galatians 5:22-23 TPT

But the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its varied expressions: joy that overflows, peace that subdues, patience that endures, kindness in action, a life full of virtue, faith that prevails, gentleness of heart, and strength of spirit.

Ephesians 5:17-21 TPT

17And don't live foolishly for then you will have discernment to fully understand God's will. 18And don't get drunk with wine, which is rebellion; instead be filled continually with the Holy Spirit. 19And your hearts will overflow with a joyful song to the Lord. Keep speaking to each other with words of Scripture, singing the Psalms with praises and spontaneous songs given by the Spirit! 20Always give thanks to Father God for every person he brings into your life in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 21And out of your reverence for Christ be supportive of each other in love.

2 Peter 3:18 TPT

But continue to grow and increase in God's grace and intimacy with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May he receive all the glory both now and until the day eternity begins. Amen!

Matthew 7:15-20 TPT

"Constantly be on your guard against phony prophets. They come disguised as lambs, appearing to be genuine, but on the inside they are like wild, ravenous wolves! You can spot them by their actions, for the fruits of their character will be obvious. You won't find sweet grapes hanging on a thorn bush, and you'll never pick good fruit from a tumbleweed. So if the tree is good, it will produce good fruit; but if the tree is bad, it will bear only rotten fruit and deserves to be cut down and burned. You'll know them by the obvious fruit of their lives and ministries."

2 Peter 3:14-18 TPT

So, my beloved friends, with all that you have to look forward to, may you be eager to be found living pure lives when you come into his presence, without blemish and filled with peace. And keep in mind that our Lord's extraordinary patience simply means more opportunity for salvation, just as our dear brother Paul wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him. He consistently speaks of these things in all of his letters, even though he writes some concepts that are overwhelming to our understanding, which the unlearned and unstable love to twist to their spiritual ruin, as they do to other Scriptures. As for you, divinely loved ones, since you are forewarned of these things, be careful that you are not led astray by the error of the lawless and lose your firm grip on the truth. But continue to grow and increase in God's grace and intimacy with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May he receive all the glory both now and until the day eternity begins. Amen!

Helpful Hints to manage this devotional:

- Set aside 1 hour each day for time with God and his word.
- **Suggestion:** 30 minutes, possibly in the morning, 30 minutes in the evening.

- Read and write daily at your pace so that by the weekend, you have completed the week's devotional. The design is that you don't have to find a starting point to study; just do it. Get an accountability partner to read and study the devotional.
-

John Wesley: "There is no love of God without Patience and no patience without lowliness and sweetness of spirit." It was one Wednesday night, closing prayer in bible study when Sis. Valerie Cook prayed with veracity and velocity, "Lord, I want Patience, and I want it right now!" That stayed and stuck with me to this day. As I have grown and matured, I realize how striking her words were then, but are the sentiments of many listening right now.

Patience and Longsuffering are some of the evidence of spiritual fruit in the life of the believer.

"Patience is power.

Patience is not an absence of action;

Rather, it is 'timing.'

It waits for the right time to act,

For the correct principles and in the right way." Fulton J. Sheen

We live in an "instant" society; we want what we want when we want it.

We have created a society that manufactures everything faster; for example, food processing differs from what it used to be. Food is injected with things to produce faster to get to the market and table so the pay can be exchanged faster.

No one, even me, wants a layover on a flight; we want a direct flight where we will minimize or maximize the travel experience.

"Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet." Aristotle

The definition of Longsuffering, Patience

What is it? Longsuffering means to be "long-tempered."

The word in the original Greek language meant "getting under a load to carry it."

Simply, forbearance and Patience.

Remember the Nestle Quick commercial..... Patience is a virtue that most can't practice. Longsuffering is the virtue of the ability to endure difficult, unpleasant, and or uncomfortable circumstances.

When you know it's a lie and want to get it straight, God says, "Be still and let me fight this one."

Longsuffering is only learned by suffering long.

Two types of suffering

1. Self-inflicted

When the crop of what you planted grows up, you have to eat the harvest of it. Decisions have consequences and repercussions.

Helpful Holy Hint: Be careful how you weigh in on other people's decisions/choices because you might get to see it up close and sooner than you think. The crop is always heavier than the seed that was sown.

2. Redemptive

The picture of redemptive suffering would be the life of Job.

Job 1:21 ESV

²¹ And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

James 5:10-11 ESV

¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Read the two passages above again and write how you have suffered redemptively and or are experiencing self-inflicted results. Be honest with yourself.

The Danger of the Antithesis of Longsuffering

2 Peter 3:15 TPT

And keep in mind that our Lord's extraordinary patience simply means more opportunity for salvation, just as our dear brother Paul wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him.

Longsuffering is the opposite of anger. At the core of anger is anxiety or frustration from a perceived or actual insult, injury, or injustice.

The operative word is "perceived." All injuries, insults, or injustice aren't always actual.

Ephesians 4:27 TPT

Don't give the slanderous accuser, the Devil, an opportunity to manipulate you!

Relevant question: How have you given the enemy a foothold by being angry?

Cato the Elder, "an angry man opens his mouth and shuts his eyes."

Anger manifests itself in 2 ways:

1. Wrath

Wrath is a deep resentment with a desire to avenge; it may even be long-term.

2. Rage

Rage is a spontaneous, temporary loss of self-control that could lead to violence.

Wrath says, "Wait until I see them!"

Rage says, "I'm going to find them!"

Now might be a good place in the devotional to do some introspection.

Pause, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal spaces, places you need to ask healing for/from wrath, rage. Take at least 5 minutes here and **DO IT**.

Proverbs 14:29 NIV

²⁹ Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.

The production of Patience

We grow, we mature, we **PRODUCE!**

Praying as Sis. Cook could have been detrimental in that what we ask God for in prayer can only be produced by the very circumstances we don't want.

For example, a prayer for strength usually brings opportunities to lift some weights.

Praying for Patience promises opportunities that test/try your Patience.

James 1:2-3 NIV

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

Patience is produced by the testing and trying of our faith.

PowerPoint: Patience is only developed in a dark room, so it can stand the test when the light hits it.

PRACTICE makes it Better. How to Practice Longsuffering

Be Quick and Slow

1. Quick to Listen

James 1:19-20 NIV

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

2. Slow to Speak

Silence can **NEVER** be misquoted.

Proverbs 20:3 NIV

³ It is to one's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

Proverbs 17:28 NIV

²⁸ Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues.

3. Slow to Anger

Anger leads to aggression. Anger is an emotion; aggression is an action.

"Whatever is begun in anger ends in shame." Benjamin Franklin

"Wisdom is the art of knowing what to overlook." William James

Proverbs 19:11 NIV

¹¹ A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.

Ephesians 4:26-27 ESV

²⁶ "In your anger do not sin"^[a]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.

Nelson Mandela's journey from prisoner to president is one of the greatest examples of never letting anger inside destroy you. It's also a prime example of "redemptive" suffering. In November of last year, I toured the prison where Mr. Mandela was kept in prison, confined to a tiny cell, and subjected to working in the lime pits that would forever damage his eyesight.

Yet, on his release, Mr. Mandela said, "As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison."

Everyone that's in prison **ISN'T** behind actual bars!

Devotional Discussion Questions and Daily Readings for Week 5

1. Is Patience a struggle for you?
2. Define Longsuffering?
3. Describe the dangers of anger.
4. What is the difference between wrath and rage?
5. What produces Patience?

Monday

"Patience is the mark of true love. If you truly love someone, you will be more patient with that person." Thich Nhat Hanh
Thank God for his Patience with you.

Read:

Numbers 14:18

Luke 13:6-9

Tuesday

"True forgiveness is when you can say, 'Thank you for that experience.'" Oprah Winfrey
Who do you need to forgive?

Read:

Ephesians 4:31-32

Wednesday

"I knew my life would be a fight, and I realized this: I had it in me." Viola Davis

Read:

Isaiah 40:8-31

Philippians 3:13-14

Thursday

"Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." Harriet Tubman

Read:

Romans 5:3-5

Hebrews 12:1-2

Friday

"Patience and fortitude conquer all things." Ralph Waldo Emerson
Who can you help and pray for to overcome a current dilemma?

Read:

Romans 15:13

Galatians 6:10