

Advance to the Manger — Day 19

Advance in Patience

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. Never set the law above these qualities, for they are meant to be limitless.”

Introduction:

Cultivating Patience

- Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23
- Reflect on the fruit of the Spirit, including patience.
- Encourage readers to cultivate patience as they wait for Christmas.

As we approach the manger during this Christmas season, it is essential to reflect on the virtue of patience. In Galatians 5:22-23, the apostle Paul lists patience as one of the fruits of the Spirit. Today, let us explore the significance of patience in advancing towards the manger and experiencing the transformative power of Jesus' birth.

Heart Reflection

1. The Fruit of Patience:

Patience is a virtue that is often undervalued in our fast-paced world. However, the fruit of patience is evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives. Patience involves the ability to endure with grace and calmness, even in the face of challenging circumstances or when waiting for God's timing. As we approach the manger, let us cultivate patience in our hearts and lives, allowing the Holy Spirit to produce this fruit within us.

2. Waiting on God's Promises:

The Christmas story is filled with waiting and anticipation. The people of Israel waited for centuries for the promised Messiah to come. Mary and Joseph waited for the birth of their son, knowing he was the fulfillment of God's promise. Just as they waited with patience, we too are called to wait on God's promises. In the midst of our own waiting, whether it be for answers to prayers or for the fulfillment of God's plans for our lives, patience enables us to trust in God's perfect timing.

3. Believing in God's Sovereignty:

Patience is intertwined with trust in God's sovereignty. It is a recognition that God is in control and that His plans are far greater than our own. As we advance towards the manger, let us surrender our impatience and anxieties to God, trusting that He knows what is best for us. Patience allows us to let go of our need for control and to rely on God's faithfulness, even when things don't go according to our plans.

Call To Action

- **Cultivate Patience:**

- Take time to reflect on areas of your life where impatience may be hindering your spiritual growth or causing unnecessary stress.
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to produce the fruit of patience within you.
 - Practice patience in your interactions with others, in waiting for God's answers, and in trusting His timing.
- **Meditate on God's Promises:**
 - Identify promises in Scripture that are relevant to your current season of waiting.
 - Spend time meditating on these promises.
 - allow them to strengthen your faith and cultivate patience.
 - Remember that God's promises are true, and He is faithful to fulfill them in His perfect timing.
- **Surrender Control:**
 - Patience requires surrendering our need for control and trusting in God's sovereignty.
 - Surrender your plans, desires, and timelines to God.
 - acknowledge that His ways are higher and His timing is perfect.
 - Choose to let go of anxiety and embrace the peace that comes from resting in God's hands.

Take A Way

As we advance towards the manger, let us remember the importance of patience in our journey of faith. Patience allows us to wait on God's promises, trust in His sovereignty, and surrender our need for control. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, let us cultivate patience in our lives, knowing that it is a fruit that will lead us closer to the transformative power of Jesus' birth. May our patience be a witness to the world and an expression of God's love and grace.

Prayer:

Oh Lord,
 thank You for the gift of patience and the example of waiting that we see in the Christmas story. Help us to cultivate patience in our lives, allowing the Holy Spirit to produce this fruit within us. Teach us to trust in Your promises and to wait on Your timing. Fill us with peace as we surrender control to Your sovereign will. May our patience be a testimony of Your work in us and a reflection of Your character. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.