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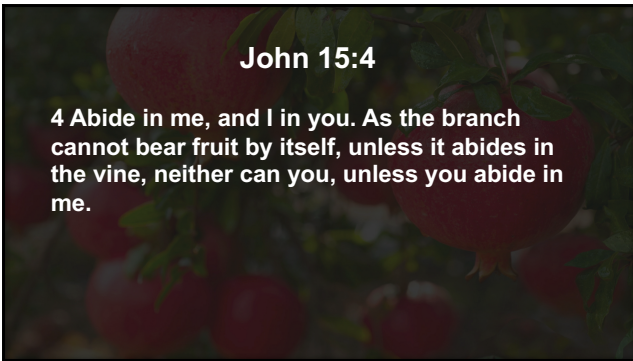
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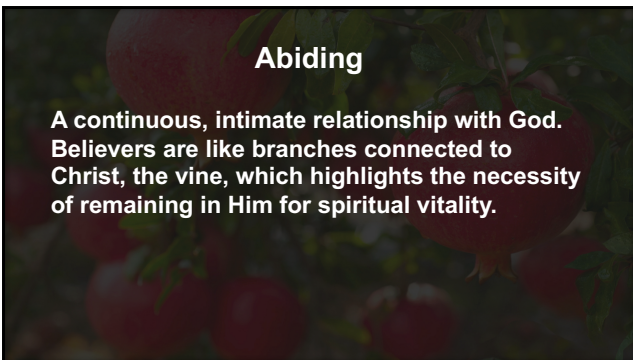
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### Patience

the ability to endure hardships, suffering, or delays with a peaceful and joyful spirit. Patience reflects steadfastness and perseverance while waiting on God by a determination of the will and not simply under necessity.

**Patience = Love + Joy + Peace + Endurance**

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### Patient Endurance

hupōmōnē, hoop-om-on-ay'; cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy:—enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).

**Patience is the fruit of the Spirit that is nurtured by watching and praying while we wait upon the Lord.**

**Fortitudine vincimus**

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### Acts 28:1-6

1 After we were brought safely through [shipwreck], we then learned that the island was called Malta. 2 The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold.

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**Acts 28:3-6**

**3** When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand.

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**Acts 28:3-6**

**4** When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live."

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**Acts 28:3-6**

**5** He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. **6** They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

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### Blame the Victim

Most people have a deep desire to believe people get what they deserve, and deserve what they get. They tend to assign blame to victims of tragedy especially if it's not possible to blame a perpetrator.

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### 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

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### Conjunction Junction

	Purpose
For	Often introduces a reason or explanation for what has been stated.
But	Indicates a reversal.
Therefore	Indicates a conclusion or result based on previous statements.

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**1 Corinthians 2:14-16**

**14** The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. **15** The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. **16** "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

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**1 Corinthians 1:19**

For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

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**1 Corinthians 1:25-31**

**25** For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. **26** For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

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**1 Corinthians 1:25-31**

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

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**1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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**Spiritual Judgment Imperative**

- 1. Elect's Past Life
- 2. Elect's Current Life
- 3. Elect's Spiritual Calling

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**Reasons to Reject Apostle Paul**

- Violent past (accessory to murder, beatings)
- Jail (Jerusalem, Philippi, Caesarea, Rome)
- Chronically ill
- Single (no wife to help)
- Refuses a salary
- Won't commit long-term

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**Reasons to Reject John the Baptist**

- Hermit who always preaches a hard message
- Limited ministry experience (1-2 years)
- Strange clothing and diet
- Arrested for speaking against authorities
- No one came to his defense
- Died in jail under suspicious circumstances

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**Reasons to Reject Jesus**

- No ministry training
- Limited ministry experience (3 years)
- Ignore religious rulers and protocols
- Authorities call him a deceiver, trouble-maker
- One reference (John the Baptist) died in Jail\*
- Multiple arrest attempts

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### Reasons to Reject Apostle Peter

- No ministry training
- Limited ministry experience (3 years)
- Hot-head who is prone to violence
- Highly opinionated, tries to take over the group
- Former tradesman who thinks about going back
- Turns on his leader in pressure situations

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### Judging the Elect By Circumstances?

1. Moses
2. Joseph
3. David
4. Apostles
5. Entire early church leadership

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### Never Judge on Natural Things?

It's not that we cannot ever judge by natural things but it is by no means conclusive when dealing with the Elect. Most natural judgment is on personal holiness and not ministry, personal or public circumstances.

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**Matthew 7:15-20**

15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

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**Matthew 7:15-20**

17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

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**Romans 5:3-5**

3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

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### Endurance is Key to Faith

Hope is a gift from God inspired by knowledge of the scriptures. Endurance in the face of suffering strengthens and feeds our hope

Suffering → Endurance → Character → Hope → Faith

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### John 15:4

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

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