

Fruitful Summer Devotion

Week 5- Forbearance

Day 1: God's Incredible Patience Toward Us

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:8–9

"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise... but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish..."

God's patience is not passivity—it's mercy. He delays judgment because His love gives people room to repent. When you grasp how patient He has been with *you*, it melts impatience with others.

Application Questions:

1. How has God shown extraordinary patience toward you personally?
 2. How can remembering His patience change how you treat those who frustrate you?
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Day 2: God's Patience Leads to Repentance

Scripture: Romans 2:3–4

"Do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"

God's patience isn't weakness; it's His strategy of love. His kindness isn't permission to continue in sin—it's an invitation to turn back. When you realize this, you stop taking His patience for granted.

Application Questions:

1. Where in your life have you mistaken God's patience as tolerance for your sin?
 2. How can His patient kindness draw you to deeper repentance this week?
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Day 3: Waiting on the Lord in Hardship

Scripture: Psalm 40:1–3

"I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry."

Patience in suffering isn't passive resignation—it's active trust. To wait on the Lord means you believe His timing is better than yours. The waiting itself is part of His rescue.

Application Questions:

1. What hardship are you tempted to rush through or control instead of patiently trusting God?
 2. What would it look like to "wait patiently" while still actively obeying Him?
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Day 4: Patience as Strength in Trials

Scripture: James 5:7–8

"Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord... establish your hearts."

Patience isn't weakness—it's strength under control. The farmer doesn't give up on the crop just because the rain is slow; he trusts the process. Gospel patience looks ahead to God's promised harvest.

Application Questions:

1. How does your impatience reveal what you're hoping in besides God's promises?
 2. What truths about Christ's return can strengthen your heart to endure today?
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Day 5: Forbearing One Another in Love

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1–3

"Walk in a manner worthy... with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love."

Forbearance means putting up with real flaws—loving imperfect people because Christ loved you when you were still His enemy. The Spirit produces this kind of supernatural patience.

Application Questions:

1. Who in your life do you find most difficult to “bear with” in love?
 2. How does remembering God’s forbearance toward you change your attitude toward them?
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Day 6: Patience When Wronged

Scripture: Colossians 3:12–13

“...put on compassionate hearts... patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint, forgiving each other...”

True patience doesn’t just tolerate people—it absorbs wrongs. You can endure offense without bitterness because you’ve been forgiven infinitely more by God. The Gospel makes slow retaliation possible.

Application Questions:

1. How are you tempted to “pay back” people who have wronged you?
 2. What step can you take this week to forgive and forbear instead of retaliating?
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Day 7: Patience Lived Out

Scripture: Matthew 5:38–48

“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Patience lived out looks like the way of Jesus as described in the Sermon on the Mount. Patience isn’t just not retaliating, but it is actively seeking the good of those who cause you harm.

Application Questions:

1. Why do you find it so difficult to seek the good of those who hurt you?
2. What does turning the other cheek, blessing those who curse you, and forgiving those who hurt you look like in your day-to-day life?