

Patience

The next “**fruit of the Spirit**” Paul says that we should develop is **patience**. We’ve already explored God’s love, the joy we have from knowing we’re His children, and the peace we all feel knowing that this life filled with sorrow and pain is just something we need to endure until we receive our reward. Patience, quite often, refers to our waiting on God to bring about that desired end.

Patience is something that few of us have and all of us need more of. We like drive-through this or that, high speed limits, short lines in grocery stores. Often, being in a hurry produces undesired results. Traffic accidents, failed relationships, hypertension and other maladies are often caused by stress brought on by our lack of patience. We most certainly need to develop patience with others, but, more importantly, we need to realize that being impatient with God is certainly not wise.

The Old Testament writers wrote about it:

“It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.” (Lamentations 3:26)

“But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.” (Micah 7:7)

“The Lord is my portion, therefore I will wait for Him.” (Lamentations 3:24)

Peter spoke of Jesus’ imminent return in 1 Peter, and then has to deal with his readers’ misunderstanding of what he said. They had begun to complain that Jesus hadn’t come yet—come according to their timetable, their schedule. ***“Where is this ‘coming’ He promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” (2 Peter 3:4)*** Peter calls them ***“scoffers”*** and reminds them that God is in charge, and He will send Christ when He is good and ready:

“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

Peter later says in **verse 15** that ***“our Lord’s patience means salvation.”*** Be patient with God, because He is patient with you. He wants all of us to repent and come to Him so that we can realize the salvation He promised. Paul says the same thing in in **Romans 2:4** when he asks them the question: ***“do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, forbearance, and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?”***

Our hope of an eternal reward will cause us to be more patient as we anticipate Jesus’ second coming. This will produce within us a stronger faith that we can utilize to endure. **Colossians 1:11** says that we will be ***“strengthened with all power according to His glorious might”*** so that we can have great endurance and patience. Suffering produces perseverance, Paul tells the Romans in **Romans 5:3**, and James says the same in **James 1:3**.

Jesus is our example. Paul, in talking about Jesus’ patience with him, said in **1 Timothy 1:15-16** that Jesus displayed His ***“immense patience”*** with Paul as ***“an example for those who would believe in Him and receive eternal life.”*** As Jesus was an example in love, mercy, and

forgiveness, he set us an example of one who is patient. We are to emulate His patience in our dealings with Him and with others.

Isaiah said it best:

“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”
(Isaiah 40:31 KJV)