

PATIENCE



James
5:7-11

WEEK 4

Patience implies suffering, enduring or waiting. We are called to wait patiently for God; to endure patiently for God; to endure patiently in the midst of various suffering, wrongs and evils and to patiently bear injustices in this world. We are able to wait on God because we trust that He is sovereign in all circumstances, working to bring about His plans and purposes.

Personal Reflections: Are you easily set off when things go wrong or irritated by interruptions or people? Or, are you more likely to respond in loving, patient way?

SCRIPTURE

“Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”



ASK

- What do you learn about God and patience in this passage?
- Where do you see Jesus demonstrating this fruit of the Spirit?
- What do you see or learn about yourself?
- What changes (thoughts, beliefs or actions) might God be calling you to make?

NOTES

CULTIVATE

Jesus spoke in Matthew 13 of different types of soil. God wants us to till the soil of our hearts so that we would be receptive to the seed of his Word and bear fruit. Before digging into Scripture, prepare your heart by asking the Holy Spirit to help your heart receive and respond to His Word.

PLANT

Read the Scripture passage. Feel free to mark up the passage, highlighting key words or phrases.

MEDITATE & MEMORIZE:
Choose a key verse that the Holy Spirit reveals to you and record it below. Commit to memorizing it and spend time this week meditating on it.

GROW

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the quality of patience in your life. Consider recent examples. Where did you feel like the Spirit was helping you live this out, rather than times when you allowed your natural, sinful nature to take over?

Matthew 3:8 says, "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance." Is God showing you any areas where pruning is necessary so that you can bear more fruit?

NURTURE*

- Gut-Level Prayer: Sometimes when you're suffering, praying can be difficult - especially if you're trying to mind your manners with God and pray correctly. Remember that prayer is open and honest communication with God. Follow Job's example and let God know just how miserable you are - just how angry, sad, scared or confused you may be. Tell Him exactly how you feel. You aren't fooling Him by trying to keep a secret from Him.
- What things are you impatient about in your life this week? Come up with a plan to turn those things over to God (without grumbling or complaining) this week. Share with a trusted friend, family member or your small group. Record your story in the Harvest section below.

HARVEST*

We find various stories in the Bible illustrating these virtues at work in people's lives. Most importantly, these virtues were perfectly displayed in Jesus' life. Your personal story is also important, and it's a testimony to those around you. Reflect back on the quality of patience in your life and note any changes that the Holy Spirit revealed to you throughout the week. Was anything convicting? Did you make any changes or take any action steps in obedience to the Spirit? How will you be different as a result?

PERSONAL*

**ANSWERED
PRAYERS***

GROUP*

I'M THANKFUL FOR*

SERMON NOTES*