

Title: Be Patient (The Fruit of the Spirit sermon series)

Passage: James 5:7-11

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Overview:

I. What is Biblical patience and how define it?

II. What are some aspects of patience?

III. What are applications to consider?

I. BIBLICAL PATIENCE

Look to God, who is a patient God

2 Peter 3:9-10

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

2 Peter 3:14-15

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

What is God's patience like?

Matthew 18:21-35 (Parable of the Unforgiving Servant)

Matthew 18:26-27 (reflect God's patience)

So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

Matthew 18:29-30 (reflect worldly patience)

So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

Matthew 18:35 (God forgives out of His patience)

So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Definition: godly reaction to a variety of situations

Patience (word) = to be slow to someone; long-suffering; to forebear

II. ASPECTS OF PATIENCE (four of them)

A. Suffering mistreatment

- Ability to suffer a long time under the mistreatment of others without growing resentful or bitter

- range of situations: ridicule to outright persecution

- Context of passage: James 5:1-6 (rich people were profiting and abusing weak, poor people)

- When in a situation where cannot control what others do to you, what is the response/solution? James 5:7: "be patient"

- Also see 1 Peter 3 (mistreatment of slaves)

1 Peter 3:17

For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

Two aspects of God's character to consider in the midst of mistreatment:

1) Justice of God

- in situations of no hope, God will make justice for you. Leave the issue in God's hands.
- Why? Because He is trustworthy. He will give justice to the unrighteous

Romans 12:19

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

2) Faithfulness of God

- God will be faithful to you
- See Joseph (Genesis 37-50), who was mistreated repeatedly by others.

Genesis 50:20 (Joseph's perspective)

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

- God is faithful. He will provide genuine justice. Don't lose hope.
- Develop confidence in the faithfulness and wisdom of God so as to trust circumstances in God's hands.

Lamentations 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

B. Provocation

- Actions of others that arouse our anger or wrath that causes us to lose our temper
- Context: You are in a position of authority (ex: parent) where another (ex: child) pushes your temperament.
- Proper response: develop God's trait to be slow to anger

James 1:19-20

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

- How can do this? Reflect frequently on God's patience towards us.
- Patient = slow to boil
- Misperception: Anger is the way I am (or the way my father/mother was; way my ethnicity is as a German/Mexican/etc.)
- Reality: You have the Holy Spirit who can empower you to be patient.
- Note: this does not mean to ignore provocation but rather to deal with it in the way that heals/restores the relationship

C. Tolerating shortcomings

- context: people behave in ways that may irritate us in different ways.

James 3:2a

For we all stumble in many ways.

- Proper response: patience = forbearance (gracious tolerance of another's faults)

Ephesians 4:2

with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

Colossians 3:13

bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

- distinction: Matthew 18:15-17 (one does need to address habitual sin, not tolerate)

Matthew 7:5 (but self-examine one's own attitude)

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

- consider how God has had mercy on you and continues to have mercy in us and around us/through others

D. Waiting for God's timing to fulfill His promises in our lives

- Consider: Abraham waiting for a son.

Ecclesiastes 3:11a

He has made everything beautiful in its time.

- fight temptation to speed up things in your own hands. (Contrast Saul vs. David)

III. APPLICATION

A. Trust in the sovereignty of God

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

- rest in God's promises who is always good, never evil or moody.

B. If convicted about one's own lack of patience, repent and pro-actively rest in God's forgiveness

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Key pointers:

- Turn to Christ

- Talk to Christ

- Think about Christ

- Trust Christ

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Other notes

Pentecost Sunday

www.gotquestions.org/amp/Pentecost-Sunday.html