

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

What Are You Waiting For?

Galatians 5:22-23, “The fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience**, kindness, goodness, faith/fulness, gentleness, self-control.

.....
You’ve probably been waiting for this fruit, right?

- *When are we going to get to patience?*

.....
What do you anticipate this message will be?

- *Encouragement, correction, affirmation, instruction, revelation...?*

.....
Do you like to read cooking or baking recipes?

- *It would be tedious in the aisle of the grocery store...*
- *An impediment to other shoppers*
- *But on the Internet? Take your time. They even have pictures.*

.....
I’m someone who follows instructions

- *Whether “some assembly required” furniture, or a new recipe*
- *I didn’t design it. I’ll trust whoever did... including the Bible.*

.....
I like the sequential order of how things fit together

- *First do this. Then add this. Now include this, etc.*
- *Especially if God is the one doing the fitting*

.....
Patience is not a selfie among the fruit of the Spirit family members

- *Without **love, joy & peace** present and active...*
- *Patience is likely to be a greater challenge than it needs to be*
- *Without **love, joy & peace**, impatience may just be selfishness*
- *Patience gets **added in with** the fruit we’ve actively received already*
- *Without patience, we may not be as **kind** as we’re supposed to be*

.....
What is the patience God’s word calls us to?

- *It is the **active endurance of steadfast continued waiting***
- *Longsuffering is often a lesser used word; to patiently endure*
- *David patiently endured for ten years after Samuel anointed him king*
- *He didn’t put himself in the role God assigned him*

.....
Don’t give up. Hang in there, even when it’s tough

- *Especially if God assigned you to it.*

.....
Acts 1:4, “And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait for the Promise of the Father**, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me”

.....

Do you expect Christ to return? When?

- You haven't given up, have you?
- You haven't stopped believing, have you?
- Are you waiting in the **fruitful patience of love, joy & peace** in faith?

Last week we talked about bearing fruit planted in good soil

- **Luke 8:15** explains it as, "But the seed that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a honest and good heart, keep it and **bear fruit with patience.**"

Have you been actively cultivating **love, joy & peace**?

- As you've applied yourself to it, have the fruit ripened?
- Sometimes following His conviction with repentance, to & from?
- That's just God digging some rocks out of your soil

The thing about cultivating patience is... it takes time

- It doesn't happen quickly. It can't
- Our culture conditions us to want things Right Now!
- Or at least as quickly as possible

I analyze & evaluate checkout lines at the store

- Some will freeze solid as soon as I get in them

How did Jesus handle being in a hurry? 🤔

- The disciples were always in line behind Him
- On His way to Jairus's house...
- **"Who touched Me?"**

Would you have been willing to stop and minister to that woman?

- Would you have the patience for it?

I believe our most **confident patience** is tied to **hope**

- Hope is "confident expectation with pleasure" for what we don't have yet

I Thessalonians 1:2-3, "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and **patience of hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father"

Romans 8:22-25, "For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the **first fruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **eagerly waiting** for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, **we eagerly wait for it with patience.**"

Sometimes patience makes the waiting easier

- Sometimes it's very hard

Psalms 105:16-19, Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread. He sent a man before them— Joseph—who was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet with fetters, he was laid in irons. **Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the Lord tested him.**

Is our impatience frustration over not being in control?

- Have we surrendered complete control to God?
- Do we trust Him with it?

Hebrews 6:12-15, "Do not become lazy, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. For when God made a promise to Abraham... after he had **patiently endured**, he obtained the promise."

.....

James 1:2-4, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But **let patience have its perfect work**, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

.....

I Peter 2:20, "For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God."

.....

We recognize our human weakness and vulnerability, but it's not an excuse.

- *Jesus of Nazareth is **fully human** (in all points tempted as we are), and **fully God**.*
 - *He is the unified Oneness He prayed for us to join with Him in **John 17:20-23**.*
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*Patience with **what**, and **who**?*

- *Ourselves, others, circumstances, God...*
 - *Impatient with God? It happens.*
 - ***II Peter 3:9**, "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but **is patient with you**, not wanting any to perish, but that all should come to repentance.*
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What are we waiting for?

- *Ultimately – God*
- *Living our lives in submission to Him*
- ***Matthew 6:34 & Prov. 16:9**, One day at a time*
- *His leading, guiding & example*