

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT 9-WEEK STUDY

April 15: Patience

TEXT: Galatians 5:22-23

INTRO: Take some time to think about examples of patient people from the pages of the Bible. You will realize that many of our beloved characters from Scripture had to hurry up and wait for God to fulfill His promises or complete His plan. Did you think of Joseph, Moses, David, or Jeremiah? Job is often put forward as the personification of patience, and rightly so. He endured the loss of his possessions, his children, his health, and his wife's support, but he took it patiently. We speak of the "patience of Job." Job knew God had control over his situation and his suffering. He had the patience to wait for the unfolding of God's plan, going so far as to say, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in Him." (Job 13:15).

THE FOURTH FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LONGSUFFERING OR PATIENCE

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 13:4; Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Psalm 37:7-8; Psalm 27:14; Romans 5:3-4; Romans 12:12; James 1:4; Colossians 3:12; 2 Timothy 4:2; Ephesians 4:2; Ecclesiastes 7:8-9

DEFINITIONS: (Listen to the video to help you fill in the blanks.)

- It's the Greek word *hypomone* which comes from two words meaning "_____."
- Patience is the ability to accept _____ or _____ graciously.
- Bearing pains or trials calmly, steadfastly, without _____. (Is it ever okay to complain?)
- Self-restraint that does not _____ against a wrong.
- A calm _____ based on a confident _____ that God is in control.

DISCUSSION: (Look up the verses given and answer the questions/discuss)

- What does the Bible say about God's/Christ's patience with people? (Romans 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9)
- What should be our response to others in light of God's patience with us?
- According to 1 Corinthians 13:4, what is the first quality needed for *agape* love?
- What does it mean to wait on the Lord? (Psalm 37:7-8; Psalm 27:14)
- How do tribulations create patience in us? (Romans 5:3-4; Romans 12:12)
- What does it mean to "let patience have her perfect work?" (James 1:4)
- How does the Holy Spirit want to help us respond to others who frustrate us? (Col. 3:12; Eph. 4:2)
- Do others describe you as calm and laid-back or impatient and easily offended? What are some examples?
- According to Ecclesiastes 7:8-9, there are two opposites of patience (it's not impatience). What are they and why is that significant? (In verse 8, the answer starts with a "p," and in verse 9, the answer starts with an "a.")
- Does my patience with others mirror God's patience with me? How do I know?

DECISION:

God is very patient with our repeated failures and sins. He wants us to trust in His timing patiently. We need patience in our homes, in our church, and in our lives. People need to see that we understand God is patient with us, so we must demonstrate that same God-like characteristic toward others.

Think of a person or situation that tempts you to be impatient. What do you plan to do this week to demonstrate the Spirit's fruit of patience?

Take some time to pray over the Wednesday prayer sheet attached to this Realm post.