



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – June 29, 2025

To Know Christ...

Ready to start building patience? Do you pray for more patience? Do those thoughts make you tremble at what could be around the corner? An aspect of the Fruit of the Spirit is patience. (Galatians 5:22) Why does it take the Holy Spirit to fuel and encourage patience in this life? Oftentimes, the missing piece is understanding! The Greek word translated as "patience" has a literal meaning of "long-tempered". Short-tempered, we understand all too well. It is the product of a fleshly and self-centered root. (See "Outbursts of anger"; Galatians 5:20-21)

How was Jesus so patient with Peter and the other apostles? He understood the root of their problem. Peter was more centered on man's interests rather than God's interests. (Matthew 16:23) And being aware that their souls were not centered on God's interest, why would these men sacrifice to help Jesus march toward Calvary? They will flee instead, they will fail ... and so will we.

Self-sacrificing love must be the motive for patience to form in us. Love is patient; Love is long-tempered! (1 Corinthians 13:4) Jesus was being patient. He was waiting for Christ to be formed in them ... after His resurrection. He knew His own apostles were still centered on themselves. Why do we grow impatient? We center on ourselves, our wants, our hopes, and what we perceive as our needs. We are simply unloving when we are impatient, we will NOT sacrifice self-centered thinking and convictions. Ask yourself why you are feeling so impatient the next time. No wonder we struggle with patience so much, we have not exhibited the love of Christ.

Consider the craziness of impatience. James speaks of the patience of a farmer waiting for the early and late rains. (James 5:7-8) Can you imagine watching a red-faced farmer frustrated, tired, irritated, snappy, moody, cross, and coming unglued because the harvest is not ready after a couple of weeks? What is missing? Understanding! A wise farmer does not throw a tantrum; he

understands the process. The seeds need rain, sunshine, nutrients, and ... time. **“We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.”** (1 Thessalonians 5:14) Be long-tempered with everyone. Realize what is missing. The unruly need humility to submit, the fainthearted need encouragement pointing to God's promises, the weak need the aid of the strong. Be long-tempered, the seeds will grow, the water will flow, and the Lord will provide the nutrients by faith responding to Him through love. Even when we discover the patience God has poured on us. (Consider Romans 2:4 & 9:22) With faith and patience [endurance], we find the inheritance of His promises. (Hebrews 6:11-12) Patience takes faith to trust His promises, understanding, and love. That is how Jesus was the epitome of being long-tempered and patient. Will we follow Him?

- Carey Terry