

5. Patience, like Jesus

While waiting to begin please discuss:

1. What comes to mind when you think about being patient?
2. What helps? What hinders?

The fruit of patience (Galatians 5:22-23)

- “patience” *makrothumia* = “long temper” = “long suffering” ^{KJV}
- ability to endure trials and hardships... with godliness... without losing faith in God or his good purposes.
- usually “long-suffering” is about being patient with people whereas “endurance” is about trials and circumstances
 - responding to weaknesses, failures and sins of others...
 - in compassion & mercy... not vengeance or retaliation.

Where do we see patience/long-suffering in the Bible?

- 1 Thess. 5:14, “And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.”
- Matthew 18:21, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”
- 1 Corinthians 13:4, “Love IS patient...”
- This is HARD!

The character of our God: patience, long-suffering ^{SO REPENT}

- Colossians 3:12-13, “... as the Lord has forgiven you...”
- Exodus 34:6-7, “...slow to anger...”
- 1 Timothy 1:16, “But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.”

The experience of our saviour, Jesus

- Luke 9:54-55, “And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them.”
- 1 Peter 2:19-25,

Our response:

- **expect the Lord to work... & pray for patience...**
He will use trials to grow our holiness
- **copy Jesus**, sowing seeds of patience

Talk together about what we’ve learned today.

- (1) What Scriptures have encouraged you today?
- (2) Where do you want to make progress? Can you think of one or two small examples of long-suffering?
- (3) What do you need to be praying about?