

It's All in the Fruit (Part 4 – Patience)
Galatians 5:22-23

Galatians 5:22-23. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

I. Patience.

A. What is patience?

So this Greek word includes a **state of remaining tranquil while awaiting an outcome, like patience, steadfastness, endurance, patient endurance.**

Also this word includes **the state of being able to bear up under provocation, like longsuffering, forbearance, patient under provocation.**

B. We face some challenges to patience in our lives.

1. **Pressures** – like approaching deadlines
2. **Problems** which get in the way of us meeting a deadline
3. **People** who make us wait
4. **Waiting on God**

We live in a society which doesn't like to be patient.

C. Why it is important to be patient.

1. We need to be patient to obey the LORD.

Since patience is a fruit of the Spirit, therefore the Lord wants us to be patient, no matter what situation we are in (Galatians 5:22). **Colossians 3:12; Ephesians 4:1-2**
Impatience is really a sin.

2. We need to be patient to show love to others like we should.

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient...

3. We need to be patient to help there be unity with others.

Ephesians 4:1-3. Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, **with patience**, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4. When need to be long-suffering to please the Lord.

1 Peter 2:20. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God.

D. How can we become more patient?

1. Remind ourselves that impatience never helps.

James 5:7-8. ⁷ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early

and late rains. ⁸ You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

2. Remind ourselves that people are normally not intentionally trying to tempt us to get impatient or irritable.

That is certainly true of fellow believers in Yeshua.

3. Whenever we are impatient, ask God to forgive us.

4. Trust God to make us more patient.

2 Corinthians 6:4, 6-7 '4 commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, 6 ... in patience, ... in the Holy Spirit, 7 ... in the power of God'.

5. Within our power, resolve problems that make us unnecessarily have to wait.

We should pray to God for wisdom and do what we should do to address a recurring problem with a person, if it is in our power and God's will to do so.

6. Remember that God is sovereign over our waiting.

Psalm 37:7, 9, 34. ⁷ Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. (Skip to verse 9.) ⁹ For evildoers will be cut off, But those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land. (Skip to verse 34.) ³⁴ Wait for the LORD and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

If something happens beyond your control that causes you to have to wait and you get impatient then you are indirectly getting impatient with God. Because He is sovereign over what is happening to you and He is allowing you to have to wait.

7. Trust God in our situation, remembering the patient example of others.

James 5:10-11. ¹⁰ As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful.

One example is the prophets of old, and another is Job.

8. Be patient when waiting on God.

God's timing is not always the same as ours.

Psalm 27:14. ¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.

God's timing is always best.

Sometimes we are waiting on God because He is waiting on us.

Conclusion

2 Peter 3:3-4, 9. ³ Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." (Skip to verse 9.) ⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Thank God that the Lord is patient and desires none to perish without Yeshua.