

## THE FRUIT OF PATIENCE

Romans 2:1-4

Colossians 3

Galatians 5:22-23

### Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What do you think it means to be patient? Can you identify a particular situation in which you needed to practice patience?
- Do you consider yourself a patient person? Why or why not?

Patience is one of those multi-faceted qualities. We can be patient (or impatient) with time, with people, or with circumstances. Do you know someone that has a great amount of patience? Maybe a parent of a toddler, a teacher, or a retail or service employee? What is it that impresses you about the way they speak or act? Alternatively, when someone is anxiously waiting, it's not uncommon for us to tell them to "be patient." But what exactly are we asking them to do? In a society that seems to value efficiency and immediate gratification, how can we cultivate the spiritual fruit of patience? Studying the way in which God is patient with us grants us broader perspective on what patience is, what it looks like, why it matters, and what it requires from us.

**Listen:** [\*The Fruit of Patience\*](#)

### Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Hosts Dave Bast, Scott Hoezee, and guest Neal Plantinga discuss how God is patient with us and how that patience culminates in our salvation. In his book *Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit: Growing in Christlikeness*, Christopher J.H. Wright expounds further on this truth: "So when God is patient, when God forgives, it is only because God chooses to carry our sins himself, to bear the weight and cost of them on his own shoulders" (p.74). What does this mean to you that God would be so patient with you that he would voluntarily bear the weight of your sins on his own shoulders? Are there specific areas in your life for which you're most grateful for God's patience?
- Reflect on scripture and identify additional Bible stories or passages in which you see examples of God's patience.
- In his book *Fruit of the Spirit*, Stephen F. Winward writes, "Patience is an aspect of caring; it's one of the colours in the spectrum of love" (p.124). Similarly, in segment 3, Neal suggests that in order to be patient with people it is helpful to have a third eye and calls it the "eye of imaginative love." Reflect on these two statements and the relationship between love and patience. Where do you need this imaginative eye of love to help you have patience?
- In segment 3, Scott cautions us about impatience in the Church, times when our own concerns about measuring success or fruitfulness have caused us to force people to conform or to rush forward without

listening. Where in your local church or in the Church at large have you seen this impatience? Have you been guilty of it yourself? What would patience look like in those situations? In what ways would patience help the Church's witness be more in line with the mission of God and message of Christ?

## **Related Passages**

- **1 Timothy 1:15-16**
- **Habakkuk 1:2-13**
- **Colossians 1:9-12**
- **James 5:10**
- **2 Peter 3:8-9**
- **James 5:7-8,11**
- **Psalm 74**
- **1 Thessalonians 5:12-15**
- **Ephesians 4:1-2**

## **Conclusion**

Consider whether you need to cultivate patience more in your circumstances or in your relationships. Then reflect on these exercises:

In your circumstances: What do you wish God would act on? Write a Psalm of lament or prayer of lament like Habakkuk's found in Habakkuk 1. Then, pray for his long view in your circumstances.

In your relationships: Who in your life would you like to learn patience from? What could you do to spend more time with that person? Consider asking that person to mentor you, so that you can seek guidance as you intentionally practice patience.

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