

“Patience”

Series: Nurturing Our Walk in the Spirit

Tony Thornton, Minister

January 31, 2021

Today, we turn our attention to the Fruit of the Spirit’s dimension called Patience. The Bible word literally means “long-tempered”. It also can mean “Forbearance/to Carry/Forgive”.

The dimension of Patience seen as the Spirit’s Fruit...

- ...is the ability to endure for a long time whatever opposition and suffering may come our way, and to show perseverance without wanting retaliation or revenge.
- ...is the ability to put up with the weaknesses and foibles of others (including other believers), and to show forbearance toward them, without getting quickly irritated or angry enough to want to fight back.

Since lots of Christ-followers struggle, its easy to become just another “thing I should do but can’t”. Perhaps something drastic is needed to get us to rethink and better develop in this area. Consider a new Paradigm.

Do you aspire to be a Quitter?

1. Don’t want to be a Quitter? Consider the Example of _____

“It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. **Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.**” John 13:1

“While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me...” John 17:12

“But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² ‘He committed no sin, and **no deceit** was found in his mouth.’

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, **he did not retaliate**; when he suffered, **he made no threats**. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ ‘He himself bore our sins’ in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:20-24

Aren’t you glad Jesus wasn’t a Quitter?

2. Consider the overwhelming _____ expecting Christ-followers to be Patient.

• Scriptures relating to Enduring Suffering:

“Dear friends, **do not be surprised** at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ **But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ**, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name

¹⁹ “So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and **continue to do good.**” 1 Peter 4:12-16, 19

“you, however, **know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings**—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, **the persecutions I endured**. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² In fact, **everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,**...” 2 Timothy 3:10-12

• Scriptures relating to Forgiveness/Forbearing One Another:

“Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, **be patient with everyone.** ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.” 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; **be patient, bearing with one another in love.**” Ephesians 4:1-2

“**Bear with each other and forgive one another** if any of you has a grievance against someone. **Forgive** as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:13

Aren’t you glad Paul/Early Church weren’t Quitters?

Conclusion: “Let us **not become weary in doing good**, for at the proper time we will reap a **harvest if we do not give up.**” Galatians 6:9

All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible. You may comment or ask Bro. Tony questions about this message at: brotony@itawambachristianchurch.org