



FRUIT(FULL) Patience

#npfruit(full)

Week 6
6 of 10

May 16, 2021

Bottom Line: Patience is the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.

Icebreaker: What flips your switch for impatience most? Being stuck in traffic jams, or being on hold on the phone?

Key Verse: *It is better to be patient than powerful. It is better to win control over yourself than over whole cities.*
Proverbs 16:32 GNT

Our fast-paced, pressure-laden culture continually pushes us to impatience. God has designed a world where everything takes time and process. In order to be successful in anything, you must have the perseverance to execute the necessary process and devote the required time. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit and is crucial to our witness. It is vital to becoming like Jesus. Our patience is tried by **PROBLEMS**. They are used as a tool to mature us. Our patience is tried by **PEOPLE**, and as Joyce Myers says, "Patience is not the ability to wait, but how you act while you're waiting." It is never harder than with other people. My patience develops in absolute proportion to how I trust that God is in control of my life and my outcomes. It is the willingness to endure difficult people and face challenging circumstances without blowing up with frustration or striking out in anger. **How can we cooperate with the Spirit to develop patience? Rely on God's Spirit.** Patience is not human willpower. You cannot just psych yourself up to do it. It is not saying it really doesn't matter. Nor is it wearing a mask and pretending while inwardly stewing. If it is God's patience you feel, you will have a genuine inner peace. Things won't bother you the way they did because you trust that God is bigger than your situation. Patience is a form of faith. God longs for us to trust Him more than anything else. Patience is evidence of our faith in Him. **Realize that God is always at work.** You can put up with a lot when you know that the negative stuff will not win in the end. Patience is what makes you able to live in this fallen world and still have love, joy, peace, and all the other fruits of the Spirit. When we wait on God, it affirms His Lordship and grows our faith. **Remember God's patience with you.** It is very easy to take God's patience with us for granted. But He is patient with our selfishness, rebellion, carelessness, and even sin. We can afford to be patient with others. It's a great sign of love to be cheerfully patient. Doing this should cause you to do two things: **Adjust your expectations.** If you want to have patience with people, you need to understand their perspective. Expecting something the other is unaware, unwilling, or unable to provide is damaging and unhealthy. Others are not perfect, and neither are we. **Choose to love**—even when you don't feel like it. In a broken world, we are called to display God's patience and love.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of Sunday's message to you?

What evidence do you see that we live in a culture of impatience?

How does impatience impact the credibility of our witness?

Christians almost always fall and fail because of a lack of patience. What biblical, contemporary, or personal examples can you give?

Once the power of patience is turned off, every other virtue is weakened. Profound thought. Reflect and discuss how this is true.

What God does in us while we wait is as important as what we are waiting for. Do you have a testimony of how this has proven true in your life?

God's goal for us is maturity. How vital is patience? Why?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

You can't just pray for patience. It's a fruit of the Spirit that takes time, energy, and effort to develop, and it grows as a result of your faith and perseverance through hardships. At the center of it is a belief that God is in absolute control of your life. Reflect and discuss.

Adjusting my expectations seems uncommonly difficult. Why do you think so? How can you effectively cooperate with God in that area?

Is it more difficult for you to remember that God is always at work or to remember that God and others have to have patience with you? How do you help yourself do it?

Relying on God's Spirit is key to developing patience and affirms His Lordship in my life. How do you practically do that?

If patience is more than waiting; it's how you act while waiting, how would you rate yourself?

NEXT STEPS

1. Consider where and with whom you struggle most to be patient.
2. Instead of asking, "Why is this happening? Why am I in this situation? Why do I have to wait?", ask God, "What do you want me to learn while I am here?"
3. Memorize *"It is better to be patient than powerful. It is better to win control over yourself than over whole cities"* (Proverbs 16:32 GNT). Post this in a few places where you will be sure to see it daily.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Patience is the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 13:4

Tuesday: Psalm 37:7

Wednesday: 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Thursday: Ephesians 4:2-3

Friday: 2 Timothy 3:10, Revelation 1:9,

1 Timothy 1:16

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)