



Cultivating Patience Fruit of the Spirit



Exodus 34:6-7

- Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.*"



Patience is Rooted in the Character of God

- *How does Exodus 34 describe God?*
- It describes God's character especially in those moments when we, his people, shame him by disgracing ourselves with sin.
- God is *compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.*
- Yahweh, the proper name of the God of Israel. Translated: LORD!
- When we pray we call God, LORD!
- it challenges us when we know that we too must be patient as God is patient.



Why are we so impatient?

- 1. We are a culture of the quick fix rather than the long haul.
 - One of the most unfortunate results of the modern age is arrogance.
 - Faith: “I want to grow as a Christian and I want to do it now!”
 - Cultivation is a lifelong process and in an impatient culture that is intimidating, but that’s the way the world really is.
 - When we cultivate patience we learn that the best things take time.



Why are we so impatient?

- 1. We are a culture of the quick fix rather than the long haul.
- 2. We are obsessed with speed and productivity.
 - Our obsession with speed and productivity is rooted in greed which is the antithesis to patience.
 - God wants us to see results as we work for Him, but His first concern is our growth.
 - The Lord teaches us this needed lesson through the blessed discipline of delay.



Why are we so impatient?

- 1. We are a culture of the quick fix rather than the long haul.
- 2. We are obsessed with speed and productivity.
- 3. We regard time as a commodity rather than a gift.
 - One of the advancements since Jesus is the clock.
 - And now we feel that what started as a tool has become a master. We are now a tool of the tool.



How shall we cultivate patience?

- *If we want to cultivate patience we must actively resist the powers that make us impatient.*
- 1. Give away time in worship, fellowship and service.
- 2. Appreciate the journey as much as the destination.
 - Our impatient culture wants to convince us that the end product or the destination is all that matters.



How shall we cultivate patience?

- 1. Give away time in worship, fellowship and service.
- 2. Appreciate the journey as much as the destination.
- 3. Trust the future to God.
 - Much of our impatience is rooted in the fact that we do not trust the future to God.
 - He is working in the details to accomplish all things in his own time and his own way.



How shall we cultivate patience?

- 1. Give away time in worship, fellowship and service.
- 2. Appreciate the journey as much as the destination.
- 3. Trust the future to God.
- 4. Forgive others.
 - If we truly want to be patient, then we need to be as patient with others as God is with us.
 - This isn't about them. It's about God. It is about cultivating patience. It's about being like God.



Ephesians 4:31-32

- ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.