



Jan 26/27, 2019

Sermon Title: The Virtue of Patience

by: Pastor Ross Owens

Scriptures: James 1:2–4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

1. The Lord isn't longsuffering because we deserve it. He's longsuffering because it's His nature. It's who He is. (Exodus 34:6)
2. Rather than walk away from us God chooses to persevere with us, gently and lovingly calling us back to Himself.
3. God's longsuffering is our pathway to repentance. (Romans 2:4)
4. God is more longsuffering than we are sinful.
5. God's longsuffering helps us focus on His promises, while the Holy Spirit deals with our problems. (John 16:33)
6. Never allow your outward circumstances to change your inward nature.
7. God's longsuffering leads us to repentance, and His Holy Spirit gives us patience to help point others to Christ so that they can repent.
8. You cannot preach salvation if you don't preach sin.
9. If you're ready and willing to say the hard thing, then you have to be ready and willing to do the harder thing. Practice completes patience, knowing God is in control.
10. God calls us to develop patience through trials, but he commands us to deliver patience given by the Holy Spirit.

Growth Group Questions

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WARM-UPS

1. How did your Sunday look different last week in lieu of services being cancelled due to weather?
2. On a scale of 1-10, how would you assess your general level of patience (10 being the most patient)?

DISCUSSION

1. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon today and why?
2. How does your level of patience change when under duress or challenging circumstances?
3. Do you tend to live under the impression that God is angry and disappointed with you most of the time? If so, why do you feel that way?
4. Share about a time in your life when you recognized God's "long-suffering" towards you.
5. Are there people in your life you wished would be more patient with you? If so, why?

IN THE WORD

Read some of the passages below and discuss any insights into today's message.

- Romans 12:12
- Philippians 1:6
- James 4:8a

PRACTICE

- Who are the people in your life that would benefit if you exercised more Spirit-filled patience toward them? Spend some time in prayer asking God to help you do so by His power that's at work within you.
- Do you find that your level of patience with others fluctuates based upon your personal circumstances? If so, spend some time with God asking Him "why." What do you hear Him saying and how should you respond?