



PATIENCE

Patience is the Spirit-produced ability to endure—to remain steadfast and longsuffering in faithful anticipation of the work of God in and through our lives.

- (Galatians 5:22–23 ESV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

The descriptions of this aspect of the fruit of the Spirit are “descriptions of the inevitable outcome of life in the Spirit” [Daniel Bush, Noel Due].

The fruit of the Spirit exhibits itself through at least these nine character traits or qualities: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

1. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS THE INEVITABLE WORK OF GOD IN OUR LIVES.

THE INEVITABLE WORK OF GOD—The fruit of the Spirit is the inevitable work of God in our lives. As we walk by the Spirit, the Spirit transforms our desires and our thinking.

OUR DESIRES—Walking by the Spirit will transform our taste for life ...

- (Galatians 5:16–17 ESV) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit

are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

A. When we walk by the Spirit, we will not satisfy the natural desires of our natural selves—our mere, fallen humanity.

When we walk by the Spirit, we will walk in an opposing direction to the satisfaction of our natural selves—our mere, fallen humanity.

OUR MINDSET—Walking by the Spirit will transform how we think ...

- (Romans 8:1–2 ESV) There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.
- B. When we walk by the Spirit, we will live free of the condemnation of the law of sin and death.**
- (Romans 8:3–4 ESV) For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not

according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

C. When we walk by (“according to”) the Spirit, God will do what “walking” under the law could not do.

When we walk by the Spirit, God will fulfill the righteous requirement of the law in us. ***PLEASE NOTE: God does this. We do not do this.

- (Romans 8:5–8 ESV) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

D. When we walk by (“according to”) the Spirit, we will not set our minds on “human things” but on the things of the Spirit.

When we set our minds on the things of the Spirit ...

- We set our minds on life and peace.
- We submit to God’s law—the instruction of Scripture. (This is not living under the law.)
- We please God.

2. FRUIT DU JOUR: WHEN WE WALK BY THE SPIRIT, THE SPIRIT WILL PRODUCE PATIENCE IN OUR LIVES.

What is this patience?

WORD MEANING: μακροθυμία [mak-roth-oo-mee-ah/] means patience, endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance ... forbearance, longsuffering, slowness in avenging wrongs. [Strong, J. (1995). *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship.]

LEARNING THE MEANING OF PATIENCE FROM ITS BIBLICAL USAGE:

1 Love is described as patient; the first thing listed in the description of love.

- (1 Corinthians 13:4a–7 ESV) Love is patient and kind ...

2 We are exhorted to be patient in anticipation of the coming of the Lord as farmers wait for the earth to yield its fruit.

- (James 5:7–8 ESV) Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

3 Grumbling is presented as impatience.

- (James 5:9 ESV) Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

4 We are exhorted to quiet our hearts before the LORD and wait for him and not to be stirred in anger over the evil man.

- (Psalm 37:7 ESV) Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

5 We are exhorted to wait patiently for the LORD to answer our prayers knowing that the one makes the LORD his trust is blessed.

- (Psalm 40:1–4 ESV) I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. 2 He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in

the LORD. 4 **Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust**, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

6 Patient in spirit is presented as opposite to the proud in spirit. If we are impatient, then this is a likely sign that we are captive to our pride.

- (Ecclesiastes 7:8 ESV) Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, **and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.**

7 We are to wait in patience for hope that we do not see—the redemption of our bodies.

- (Romans 8:23–28 ESV) And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 **But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.** 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good**, for those who are called according to his purpose.

The patient person "knows" this and lives accordingly.

8 A life of patience is part of our worthy calling.

- (Ephesians 4:1–3 ESV) I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, **with**

patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

9 This life of joyful patience—our worthy walk ...

- Is pleasing to the Lord.
- Bears fruit in every good work.
- Increases in the knowledge of God.
- Is strengthened with all power according to God's glorious might.
- Then endures in joyful patience and thanksgiving.
- Is aware of our inheritance.
- Lives "the delivered life" in the kingdom of God's beloved Son.

- (Colossians 1:9–14 ESV) And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, **for all endurance and patience with joy**; 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

10 Paul writes that we are to "put on" patience.

- (Colossians 3:12–13 ESV) **Put on then**, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,

compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and **patience**, 13 **bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.**

What does that mean? If the fruit of the Spirit is the work of God, **then how do we "put on" patience?** We submit to this lifestyle. We bow before God and trust him for this manner of living. We clothe our lives with patience. We submit to the biblical instruction on godly living.

REVIEW: Patience means ... endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance ... forbearance, longsuffering, slowness in avenging wrongs.

LIST OF GRACES: We are to put on compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience (Colossians 3:12-13).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVING THIS WAY: Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Please note the overlapping, interwoven and blended nature of these "graces" and the "fruit" of the Spirit. This is, in fact, what godly living is truly about. **This is righteousness.**

3. THE SPIRIT'S WORK OF PATIENCE IS ESSENTIAL IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST EVIL.

A. In our service to Christ, we are to patiently endure evil.

- (2 Timothy 2:24–26 ESV) And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, **patiently enduring evil**, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

B. Patience is necessary in faithfully preaching the word in the hope that some will still endure sound teaching.

- (2 Timothy 4:1–4 ESV) I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, **with complete patience and teaching.** 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

C. We are to have patient endurance in Jesus.

- (Revelation 1:9 ESV) I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and **the patient endurance that are in Jesus**, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

D. We are to have patient endurance against evil in general and false teachers in particular.

- (Revelation 2:2 ESV) I know your works, your toil **and your patient endurance**, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.

E. Having patient endurance against evil is keeping Christ's word.

- (Revelation 3:10 ESV) **Because you have kept my word about patient endurance**, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.