

## ***Fruit-Filled Living (Pt.6)***

"Plum Patient"

(Galatians 5:22)

***"The fruit of the Spirit is ...Patience" (NIV)***

**Introduction:** Plums are a nutritious fruit, but mostly, plums are noted as a sweet fruit with sweet flesh.

Don't you just love people who are a good source of nutrition and sweet at the same time. They are the ones that are "plum patient." But patience like that is only produced as a fruit of the Holy Spirit. And right here the Apostle Paul is telling us, "*the fruit of the Spirit is... "Patience (or) Longsuffering...* The Holy Spirit's fruit is designed to develop God's character in us to be lived out through us. Because part of God's character is patience, *the Holy Spirit desires to produce patience in us.*

### **I. God is our pattern for patience:**

The patience Paul talks about here as the fruit of the Spirit, is made up of two Gk. words. (*Marko* – means slow) the other is (*thumos* – means wrath) = *So, to have patience means to be slow to anger.*

However, patience is not the absence of anger, but rather anger properly handled. (*Mark 3:5; Eph 4:26*) The key is not whether someone is angry, but rather what they do with that anger. This is where we need God's pattern for patience... (*Ex. 34:6*)

#### **A. God is patient with sinners –**

1. It was God's longsuffering that withheld His wrath before the flood in Noah's day. (1 Pe.3:20)
2. It is the longsuffering of the Lord today that is delaying the return of Jesus - (2 Pet 3:9)
3. God's withholding is not to be understood as indifference to our sin, or as an excuse to sin. (*Rom 2:4*)
4. God is patient with sinners because He wants them to turn away from their sin & turn to Him! *Paul explains this in (Rom 9:22-23)*
5. In other words, God would rather show His mercy than His wrath – and He is waiting for sinners to turn to Him – but He won't hold back forever! 1 Pe. 3:20

#### **B. God is patient with saints – *For the saint, God expects that we will grow & produce spiritual fruit!***

1. *Jesus discusses this in great detail in (Jn. 15:2, 15, 8)*
2. And because some are not bearing fruit - growing in the Lord, God is being patient.
  - a. Jesus is the one who is interceding with the Father on our behalf asking Him to hold back His righteous judgment from us, (*Lk 13:8-9*)
  - b. God's longsuffering is not to be understood as indifference to our sin!
  - c. God's longsuffering is not to be understood as a license to sin because we are under grace now; (*Rom 6:1-13*)

### **II. God gives us promises for patience:**

- #### **A. It is a comfort of scripture – William Barclay says, "*It is always a comfort to feel others have gone through what we have to go through.***
1. There are times we need patience with God. We get into a hurry up mind- set and get discouraged if God isn't in the same hurry we are! (*Heb 6:15*)
  2. God often has much bigger plans for our lives than we have for our own.
    - a. James reminds his reader – 5:7
    - b. The prophets had to wait on God to fulfill His Word – (*Js. 5:10-11*)
    - c. Job had to wait on God through all his trials - (*Js.5:7,10-11*)
    - d. We have the promise God is at work in our lives – (*2 Pet 3:9*)
- #### **B. It is a command of scripture – (*Heb 6:12*)**
1. Jesus Himself said – (*Mt.24:13*)
  2. Job did endure great tribulation, but he endured because he never lost sight of the promises of God – (*Job 13:15;16: 19; 19:25*)

### **III. God has a purpose for patience: God knows we have need of patience so He seeks to develop them in us (whether we pray for them or not)... (*James 1:3-4*) *this is...***

#### **A. What God is doing in us (2 Cor. 6: 4ff.)**

1. Paul says patience is needed to handle the pressures of ministry -if you're going to be an effective minister of God....
2. Pressures in life and ministry call for the godly character of longsuffering! (*Rom.5:1-5; 2 Cor. 6:6-7*) In other words, it requires God developing it in and for us!

#### **B. What God is doing for us – He is developing patience in us to help us handle problems - that allows us to endure bad days and long hardships!**

1. Problems will come into our lives – Why do problems come? There are a variety of reasons, here are some to ponder: (*Ezk. 22:14; Ps.119:71; Gen.50:20*) "*God meant it for good.*"
2. *We (like Job) don't always understand why they come, but we can understand God has a purpose in them all!*
3. *When the Holy Spirit produces patience in us it does not mean freedom from trials.*

In the same way God uses many things in our lives to develop for us His character of patience so we can, as Paul instructed; (*Col.3:12-15*)

### **IV. God's perspective for patience: (2 Pet 3:8)**

#### **A. It can give us comfort when we have the proper perspective – (*Ps.31:15*)**

#### **B. So, what is God's perspective for patience?**

##### **1. That many sinners will be converted – (2 Pe. 3:9;-10; 1 Tim 2:4)**

1. That saints will be conformed – (*2 Cor.6:3*)
  - a. We need patience in our homes –
  - b. We need patience in social relationships –
  - c. We need patience in church — (*Eph.4:2; 1 Thes. 5:14; 1 Cor. 13:4*)

*But patience like that is only produced as a fruit of the Holy Spirit.*