

DAY 1 - (week beginning 1 July 2019)**Read - Psalm 37: 1-9**

"Refrain from anger and turn from wrath" v8

The dictionary says; Patience is the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious.

Wow that is a tall order. We are all impatient at some point in our life. I think it is probable one of the things we all need more of... patience.

Ever stood in a line for something, especially when you have to pay your taxes or renew your car license, you stand in the line and it takes forever. You think to yourself; 'You would think that the government will employ more people as they are collecting our money and you would think the system would be faster...'

How does that make you feel? Impatient, frustrated, mad, annoyed and even plain rude... Because when you have stood in that line for over an hour and you get to the front of the line you just want to explode and unload onto someone and that is normally the person helping you on the other side of the counter. And you know what? In most cases it's not their fault and yet we need to unload our frustration onto them.

I wonder how they feel when they end the day, they must be exhausted. This week we will focus on patience as one of the fruits of the Spirit.

Prayer: *God give us patience in all situations.*

DAY 2**Read - Isaiah 40:28-31**

"Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." v31a

Waiting is an integral part of patience.

Hudson Taylor, the great missionary to the Inland China Mission, was on a voyage back to China. The ship sailed around the Cape of Good Hope, located at the tip of South America, and entered the area of the ocean called the doldrums. The ship sat there motionless, not having even the slightest breeze.

Once the ship had remained in one spot for quite some time, the anxious captain came to Taylor and said, "I need you to pray for favourable winds."

Taylor responded, "I'll be glad to pray for wind, but first you must hoist the sails." The captain hesitated, "My crew would think I was crazy if I hoisted the sails without wind." Taylor reiterated, "If you want me to pray for wind, you must first hoist the sails."

Once the captain did as he was instructed, Taylor prayed for wind. The wind came, allowing the ship to sail and continue its journey.

We are to actively wait for God. That statement sounds like a contradiction, but it is not. We are to be engaged in active waiting when we wait on God. Active waiting, is just one of the disciplines of the Christian life, it is part of patience that renews our strength.

Prayer: *Lord give us patience to renew our mind and give us strength to see us through this day.*

DAY 3**Read - 1 Corinthians 13:4**

"Love is patient..." v4

We are to demonstrate patience in the context of our relationships within our family and friends.

A parent generally has more difficulty in dealing with children than a grandparent does, yet that characteristic must be a part of family living. Paul emphasizes the need for patience in Eph 4:32: *"Be completely humble and gentle. Be patient, bearing with one another in love."*

Those of you who are school teachers will return to school in a couple of weeks. Teachers of all types must have patience. Paul writes to Timothy, charging him to, *"Preach the word, be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, encourage with great patience and careful instruction"* (2 Tim 4:2). Teachers cannot lead effectively unless we follow one truth: We must be the calm when others are the storm. Once we become the storm, we completely lose control of the situation.

That advice also applies to every member of the church. Paul writes in I Thes 5:14, *"And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone."* Being "patient with everyone" is truly difficult, yet God expects us to relate to this church family, to this body of Christ, with tolerance.

Prayer: *Lord let us be patient with everyone especially our friends and family.*

DAY 4

Read - Philippians 1:6

"I know that God who began a good work in you will see it through to completion" v6

Patience has a connection with grief and sorrow.

Have you ever been a patient in the hospital? There is good reason that a person in the hospital is called a patient. When we are physically suffering and when we are experiencing sorrow, patience is required. God can use the down turns in our lives such as a hospitalization, an illness, and a death, for good. Rom 8:28 says that God works all things together, using these occurrences to mould and shape us. God is always working on us. Think of God as a sculptor, chiseling away on a piece of marble. He is constantly forming and contouring us, trying to shape us into the person He wants us to be.

I reflect on my life and see many marble chips scattered on the floor where God was really chiseling on me. He was moulding me during the period when one of my best friends was dying of cancer and there was nothing anyone could do for him. Were those times painful? Yes. Were they productive? Yes.

God is not finished with us. He continues to work on us. God has to be patient, but so do we. Patience, suffering, and sorrow are an integral part of life.

Prayer: Lord please keep chiselling on us to make us more like You.

DAY 5

Read - Romans 8:24-25

"For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." vs 24-25

Hope and patience

Patiently waiting is not a matter of despondency; it is a matter of hope. That association expresses itself in prayer. The psalms repeatedly address praying to the Lord and then waiting on Him. We offer a prayer to God and then wait for Him to respond.

God always answers our prayers in pretty much the way that we answer our children's requests. A child asks, "Dad, will you give me such-and-such?" We might answer, "Well, let's just wait and see." God may respond the same way, making us wait until a better time, a more appropriate time.

On another occasion a child may ask for something, and we respond, "No, you're not quite ready for that yet. The time will come later." Yet again they ask, and we grant their request.

God answers our prayers in the same way. Many times, God wants us to wait. The anticipation of waiting gives to us, not only a deeper appreciation when the prayer is answered but also adequate time to really engage God, to allow Him to be at work in our lives. He may not grant our requests in the way we desire, but He is always faithful in answering our prayers.

Prayer: Lord give us renewed hope in You.

DAY 6

Read - 2 Corinthians 5:7

"For we live by faith, not by sight." v7

We need to consider the connection between patience and God.

Do we realize that God is patient with us? He is certainly patient with me.

Paul wrote to Timothy, *"I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life"* (1 Tim 1:16). Peter conveys the same message in 2 Peter 3:15, *"Keep in mind that the patience of the Lord means salvation..."*

Why is God patient with us? God's purpose is to bring us to the point of salvation. He wants to save us.

We, too, must be patient in response to God. We must wait upon Him. Some of that waiting, as we have said before, is in the life of prayer; but some of that waiting is also in the process of simply living by faith, faith that is not seen.

The Saviour is waiting very patiently for us.

Prayer: God, thank you for be being so patient with us.