

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM:
THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Devotional: Summer 2020

INTRODUCTION

This summer we are exploring the fruit of the Spirit: how God changes us through his Spirit to make us more like Jesus. Thank you for joining other Redeemer East Siders to grow in the fruit of the Spirit through devotionals, discussions and noonday prayer.

Use this devotional guide to deepen your understanding of the power of God's Spirit. Each day begin with the opening prayer, choose a Scripture passage and quotation to reflect on, and then pray the closing prayer. The worship songs can be listened to throughout the week. When a particular Scripture stands out to you, pause and meditate on it, considering what you learn about God, humanity, and why God is showing this to you today. Pray for the Spirit to work this fruit into your life.

WEEK 5, AUGUST 2: PATIENCE

▶ LISTEN

- [A Little More Time to Love - Steven Curtis Chapman](#)
- [Wait on the Lord](#)
[Donnie McClurkin - Karen Clark Sheard](#)
- [Hold On \(Spiritual\)](#)

▶ OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

▶ SCRIPTURE

- 2 Samuel 15-18
- Isaiah 25:1-9
- Psalm 3
- Matthew 18:15-35
- Psalm 116
- 1 Peter 2:13-25
- Proverbs 15:1, 18; 16:32; 19:11

▶ PATIENCE (MAKROTHUMIA)

- **Definition:** Ability to suffer trouble (in general or from others) without blowing up or giving up
- **Opposite:** Judgment and resentment toward people and God
- **Counterfeit:** Hardness/indifference

▶ REFLECTION QUOTES

“The parable of the merciless servant [Matthew 18:21-35] is about forgiveness...a forgiveness prompted by patience, and a patience perfected by mercy. If we neglect the necessity of forgiveness, we fail to complete the portrait of biblical patience. Patience is the vessel through which God pours his mercy. Mercy is fueled by forgiveness.” —Beth Moore

“How you respond to the troubles in your life will go a long way toward whether or not you ever, ever, ever develop courage, ever develop patience, ever develop compassion, ever develop sobriety and humility, ever develop any of those things. Don’t waste your sorrows.” —Timothy Keller

“All shall work together for good; everything is needful that he sends; nothing can be needful that he withholds...You have need of patience, and if you ask, the Lord will give it. But there can be no settled peace till our will is in a measure subdued...fight against every thought that would represent it as desirable to be permitted to choose for yourself. When your spirit is overwhelmed within you; he will not leave you to sink. And keep close to the throne of grace. If we seem to get no good by attempting to draw near him, we may be sure we shall get none by keeping away from him.” —John Newton

“The Christian is not one who has become immune to what is happening around him. Grief and sorrow are something to which the Christian is subject...the absence of a feeling of grief...savors more of the stoic or psychological states produced by a cult than of Christianity...[Christians] have something that enables them to rise above these things...though you feel them. It is not an absence of feeling.” —D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“To forgive is to make a decision to cancel a debt that you are owed and not to hold it against your offender. There is no forgiveness without a debt. And when we realize the enormity of our own debt it makes forgiveness possible. So in this sense forgiveness is closely connected to gratitude. If our hearts overflow with gratitude for all that the Lord has done for us, all that He did to secure our salvation, all that He continues to do to keep us, then forgiveness will be easier. The person who doesn’t have anything to be grateful for is an angry, vengeful person.” —John M. Perkins

“Withdrawal from the world or accepting simplistic answers reveals human effort or human problem solving, while lament acknowledges who is ultimately in control. In the midst of a crisis, Lamentations points toward God and acknowledges his sovereignty regardless of the circumstances...Scripture now points the people of God toward the proper response to a broken world: lament.” —Soong-Chan Rah

▶ CLOSING PRAYER

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, running to obtain your promises, we may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
(Book of Common Prayer)