

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM:

# THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Patience: Psalm 3:1-8

August 2, 2020

## WORSHIP

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Take a moment to remind yourself why you are still meeting together during quarantine: To grow as disciples of Jesus by cultivating our relationship with God and friendship with others.

Listen to a song of worship: [Hold On](#) (Spiritual) or [Wait on the Lord](#) - Donnie McClurkin - Karen Clark Sheard

Or read the following together:

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

## INTRODUCTION

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Patience could be described as the ability to suffer trouble from a person or circumstance without blowing up or giving up. Patience with people is often the hardest for us to live out, yet throughout the Bible we see God acting in unending patience toward humanity. As 2 Peter 3:9 states, “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” God poured out his wrath on Jesus, so that he could offer patience and mercy to humanity, rather than judgment.

This kind of patience is so rare, and even more so in our current moment of hostility and “cancel culture.” Patience and “cancel culture” cannot coexist. Because Christians have received the patience of God and his Spirit dwells within them, patience can grow even through the deepest offenses and divisions. In today’s Scriptures, we will learn through a parable of Jesus and a prayer of King David what it looks like to bear the fruit of patience.

## SCRIPTURE

20 MINUTES

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Read the following Scriptures. Then invite the group to respond to the questions below.

### Matthew 18:21-35, New International Version (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

<sup>26</sup> “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ <sup>27</sup> The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

<sup>28</sup> “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.

He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

<sup>29</sup> "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

<sup>30</sup> "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

<sup>32</sup> "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' <sup>34</sup> In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

<sup>35</sup> "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

### Psalm 3:1-8, New International Version (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Lord, how many are my foes!

How many rise up against me!

<sup>2</sup> Many are saying of me,

"God will not deliver him."

<sup>3</sup> But you, Lord, are a shield around me,

my glory, the One who lifts my head high.

<sup>4</sup> I call out to the Lord,

and he answers me from his holy mountain.

<sup>5</sup> I lie down and sleep;

I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.

<sup>6</sup> I will not fear though tens of thousands

assail me on every side.

<sup>7</sup> Arise, Lord!

Deliver me, my God!

Strike all my enemies on the jaw;

break the teeth of the wicked.

<sup>8</sup> From the Lord comes deliverance.

May your blessing be on your people.

- ▶ Compare and contrast judgment and patience as seen in the king and the servant in Matthew 18. Make note of the specific verbs that describe what each of them did.
- ▶ Much in our cultural moment—virtual friendships, political tribalism, social distancing—allows for quick opinions, harsh judgment, and a lack of understanding. Yet judgment cannot coexist with patience, a gift of the Spirit. Reflect and then share as honestly as you can: In what ways or with whom is judgment more present than patience in your life?
- ▶ How could receiving God's mercy through Jesus's life, death and resurrection, transform you with patience? Be as specific as possible.
- ▶ In Psalm 3 we see King David praying through the pain of his son's betrayal and attempted murder (2 Samuel 15-18). How does this prayer help us learn to express emotions honestly and still wait for God to act? In what ways do you hope to grow the fruit of patience in your life?

## GOING FURTHER THIS WEEK

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Use the **Fruit of the Spirit devotional guide** to grow in bearing the fruit of patience.

## FELLOWSHIP AND PRAYER

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25 MINUTES

- ▶ Pray for increased confidence in God's faithful presence that will allow you to grow in patience with others.
- ▶ Pray for those who do not know the hope of Christ by using the below prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you, especially...

**[members of the group name particular people].**

For the honor of your Name. Amen.

Then with the Scripture discussion in mind, pray for each other and the particular needs in our city and world.

- ▶ Want to continue meditating on Scripture throughout the week? Join Virtual Noonday prayer:  
[eastside.redeemer.com/prayer](http://eastside.redeemer.com/prayer)