

For Personal Reflection or LifeGroup Questions
What's in YOUR Garden?
"The Fruit of the Spirit: PATIENCE"
Pastor Jeff Borden / August 14, 2016

1. Pastor Jeff shared several interesting perspectives about the Fruit of "Patience" as we continued our study in the Fruit of the Spirit this week. When you think about patience or some of the thoughts he shared, what does patience "look" like to you? When you consider a patient person, who comes to your mind? What traits does that person embody that makes them patient in your opinion?
2. Another word for patience in the Bible is "long-suffering." In your opinion, does long-suffering bring to mind a different picture than does patience? Why or why not? Can you explain any differences between the two?
3. Endurance, perseverance, gentleness, self-control, and suffering (as well as a few other character attributes) are all part of the ingredients of maturing patience. How do you feel about those ingredients? Review the following Scripture verses and write out or discuss your thoughts as they relate to patience. (James 1:2-5, 12; Romans 5:3-4; Thessalonians 1:4-5; 2 Peter 1:5-7; Revelation 2:2-3).
4. What do you think Pastor Jeff meant when he quoted "Patience is the guardian of all virtues"; can you explain?
5. A popular comment, often spoken in joking context, is "you should never pray for patience..." Why do you think people make this comment, if even joking?
6. Consider the opposite of patience (impatience), and write down all the personality traits and/or actions, attitudes and reactions or responses that are manifest from an impatient person. List and discuss them aloud; what do you think this "person" looks like as a whole? Do you think this overall portrait is attractive or unattractive? Why or why not?
7. How would you describe yourself on the patient-person scale, with a 1—10 (10 being perfectly patient). What are the triggers that cause you to become impatient? What types of mannerisms and attitudes do you display when you are impatient? Consider some of the internal thoughts and emotions that rise up when you are impatient; can you identify or remember anything specifically?
8. What do you think are some exercises that can help you grow in developing patience? Do you think that "trying to grow" in the way of patience is the way to move positively in the direction of spiritual maturity or is it something that we pray for and happens according to God's timing? Explain.

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