

Questions for Small Group or Individual Study/Reflection
Fruit of the Spirit Sermon Series - PATIENCE
Galatians 5:22-23; Psalm 46
Sermon for July 25, 2010

The Holy Spirit has come to reside inside each of us who proclaim Jesus is Lord of our lives. Each of the virtues of the Fruit of the Spirit are a “deposit” from God’s Spirit – waiting to be developed by God’s grace and our willingness to grow in our faith and put it into practice wherever God leads us each day. This week we “jump ahead” to PATIENCE. God’s highest purpose for us as Christians is to make us like Jesus (Rom. 8:29). As we fulfill this purpose by getting to know our Lord better and by obeying Him, we will exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit whether we are aware of it or not. God is not finished with YOU yet! Allow the Potter to mold and shape you into the mature and loving disciple He has intended for you to be.

1. How might God help us to exhibit patience in a practical way – say, even when everything around us tells us NOW or yesterday or ASAP?! When have you lost your patience with God?
2. How should we treat people who drive us up a wall? Can you think of examples in scripture where Jesus interacted with – loved – forgave –healed –instructed – “high maintenance” people?
3. In Psalm 46, we are given a powerful reminder that God is our strength/our fortress – even in the midst of hardship and pain. And God might not really seem “to be out there or to understand where I need him the most RIGHT NOW!!!” In v. 10 (BE STILL) we can be reminded that trusting that God is always in control of every earthly situation – will give us that peace which passes all of our human understanding.

Spend 5 minutes right now - “Being Still” - and knowing that HE is God...

4. Have you ever felt like giving up Christianity and returning to an “easier way of life”? Explain. How has God used someone else to be an encouragement to you when you needed it the most?
5. How has God been patient with you in your lifetime? Pray that God, who has been patient with you, might help you be patient with others.
6. Why is it so hard to be still in life? And harder yet to “be still before the Lord”? What might God teach you in the silence – where/when you wait upon Him? What ONE thing might you totally turn over to the Lord this week and look for His guidance and direction?
7. **Personal Application – Prayer focus for the week:**

Additional Scripture references for further study: Romans 5:1-5; Matthew 18:21-35; 2 Timothy 1:8-2:7