

January 31, 2023

"Patience is a virtue." That is a true statement, though it always seems to be said at times when I'm the most impatient. And trying to become more patient has just seemed to be a losing proposition...at least for me. Oh, I can be patient when things are going my way...but when they're not – that's when patience goes out the window.

So are some people blessed with patience, while others – like me - just aren't? Is patience a spiritual gift that the Holy Spirit gives to some believers... but not others? Nope! Patience should be present in every Christian's life. It's a Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5), not a gift of the Spirit, along with other fruit like; love, joy, peace, and kindness...etc.

However, the difficulty comes in the fact that the only way patience grows in the heart of a believer is through pain...by pushing through the tough times of life with grace. In other words, patience is a product of faith, holding onto the promises of Jesus through trials. The fruit of patience grows as faith trusts God through trials. That's why the pastor prayed for hardships, when his congregant said she wanted patience.

James 1:2-4 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Now, patience isn't specifically mentioned in that passage, but endurance is a kissin'-cousin to patience. And Paul uses it in his own lesson on difficult times.

Romans 12:12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Yes, "Patience is a virtue." But it's a virtue (or fruit) gained by holding on to Jesus through tough and painful experiences. Remember, "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance..."