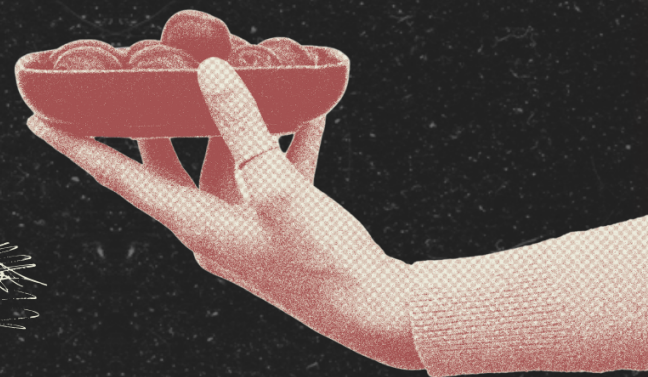


Fruit of the Spirit



LOVE
JOY
PEACE
PATIENCE
KINDNESS
GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS
GENTLENESS
SELF-CONTROL



“PATIENCE”

TITUS 1:1-3; 2Corinthians 1:8-11

Nathan Day taught us that patience is a fruit of the Spirit because God Himself is patient. God's patience is perfect, as evidenced throughout His redemptive plan. God's patience is forbearance—His merciful restraint toward sinners despite their repeated rebellion. From Adam's expulsion from Eden to Israel's idolatry, exile, and preservation through a faithful remnant, God consistently delays final judgment while advancing His promise of redemption, which is finally and fully fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Long-suffering is a form of patience in which believers endure hardship with joy while trusting in God's purposes. Using Paul's sufferings in 2Corinthians 1, Nathan showed that Christian endurance cannot rest on human resolve, but on confidence that God is faithful to keep His promises. Parents are called to imitate God's patient correction by disciplining children with firmness and compassion. Church members demonstrate God's patience by teaching slower-growing Christians with gentleness and persistence, and remembering God's ongoing patience toward their own sins.

// GETTING THE MESSAGE

:: Nathan starts with Titus 1:1-3. Where do you see God's patience in this text? What does God's eternal plan reveal about His patience?

// GETTING THE MESSAGE

:: Read **Genesis 2:15-17**. Yet when Adam and Eve eat from the tree, they do not die. How does this show the patience of God toward sinners. (See Romans 2:4; 2Peter 3:9)

:: Read **Genesis 3:22-24**. Can you think of anywhere else the “Tree of Life” appears in Scripture? How does this reveal the work of Christ in the gospel? [Hint: look at the end of the Bible]

:: Throughout Israel's history, why does God repeatedly preserve a remnant instead of destroying the nation entirely?

:: Using Jonathan Cruse’s definition of forbearance on page 65, how has God shown his people perfect forbearance from the Fall to the coming of Christ?

:: Read **2Corinthians 1:8-11**. What sustains Paul in his suffering?



// GETTING TO CHRIST

:: When God issues the curse of sin upon the serpent, what promise does He make? (See Genesis 3:15) How is this promise ultimately fulfilled?

:: Read **Galatians 4:1-7**. In verses 1-3, we see our pre-salvation state. In verses 4-5, we see what God has done to save us, and in verse 6-7, Paul tells us what this has accomplished for us. How is this transformation from slave to sons an example of the patience of Christ?

// GETTING TO YOU

:: What are some areas in your life where you struggle to produce patience? What would it look like to display Christlike patience in those areas?

:: Why is patience difficult?

:: Thinking back to Paul's example in 2Corinthians 1, how does prayer empower long-suffering?



// GETTING TO YOU

:: Nathan argued that patience grows from knowing God's character and not from trying harder. How does this differ from a moralistic view of patience? How is it more effective?

:: If patience is a fruit of the Spirit, then it is not simply a personality trait. What practical habits will cultivate patience in your life?

// GETTING TO OTHERS

:: How might patience be a gospel witness in your workplace and/or in your home?

:: Read **2Timothy 4:2** and **1Thessalonians 5:14**. How should patience shape the way mature Christians teach younger or slower-growing believers?

:: How can parents discipline their children in a way that reflects God's patient correction rather than sinful frustration?

