



Pastor Scott Archer 10.12.2014*
Central Congregational Church
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A Lesson In Patience

Series: *The Fruit of the Spirit – Living a Life that Pleases God*
Galatians 5:22-26

Central Thought: Patience with myself, others and God comes with a growing awareness of my need and God's grace, and a confidence in God's power and providence.

Patience is...an aspect of the fruit of the Spirit that enables me to endure personal difficulty with courage and faith, and respond to others' failings with grace and love.

- ❖ Patience with myself – God isn't finished with me yet!

Psalm 103:8–12 (NIV) — 8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. 9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; 10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (See also – all of Psalm 103)

1 John 1:8–9 (NIV) — 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (See also Romans 7:7-8:39)

- ❖ Patience with others – Ready to extend the grace that I have received.

Matthew 6:14–15 (NIV) — 14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Colossians 3:12–14 (NIV) — 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

- ❖ Patience with God – He is always working for our good and his glory.

Hebrews 12:7–11 (NIV) — 7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? 8 If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! 10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. (See also – 2 Timothy 2:1-7; James 1:2-12)

Romans 8:28 (NIV) — 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (See also – Psalm 46:10)

Questions/Homework

- ❖ Read the “See also” passages above.
- ❖ Spend some time in prayer, through confession and repentance, asking God to show you more clearly your need and his grace.