

Patience

Today my interaction with others will be characterized by patient love. Patience is an expression of love and love is not only an attribute of God, but God is love. And because I have chosen to put my faith in Jesus and follow Him, the fruit of His Spirit, patience, is growing in me. As a result I am fulfilling the intended purpose of my life: loving God and loving others.

I cannot obtain patience by sheer discipline or will; the Holy Spirit is spontaneously and continuously working in me to produce all of the character traits found in Jesus. Patience is the natural by-product of joining my life with His. As I grow to know Him more, love Him more, remember Him more and to imitate Him in all aspects of my life; His Spirit is increasing my endurance so even when others irritate me I will respond to them with patience.

Today my interaction with others will be characterized by patient love. My words will always be filled with compassion. I will encourage those who are growing. I will challenge those I must reprimand, and when I am allowed the honor of giving guidance, I will do so prayerfully and carefully with patient love.

With patience I am able to see beyond others' faults and failures. I am able to tolerate inconveniences and annoyances without grumbling. When provoked I will not lose my temper. I will persevere even when under great pressure and while enduring injustice. My trust in Jesus will not waver and I refuse to seek revenge when I am wronged. Today my interaction with others will be characterized by patient love.

Patience is not idle, it requires action. I will take action by reflecting on God's patient love towards me and ask Him to help me be equally patient with others. I will act in patient love by serving and caring for others. Patience is love in action. It is a willingness to forgive and empathize with others. It is the strength to stand with others in times of need. It is the call to express love by sharing the burden of those around me and the good news of Jesus with them. Regardless of the time and energy required to invest in others with patient love, I recognize its value and worth, it is the bond of all relationships.

I am allowing God's Spirit to supernaturally work in me to produce patient love. As a result I will not only be more tolerant of others but I will have a greater inner peace. Today my interaction with others will be characterized by patient love.

Study: Patience

Day 1: Patience Through God - *Galatians 5:22-23* (Page 893); *Ephesians 4:20-24* (Page 897); *Proverbs 25:15* (Page 499)

Day 2: Examples of Patience - *James 5:10* (Page 932); *Matthew 18:26-27* (Page 749); *Romans 2:4* (Page 858); *2 Peter 3:9* (Page 939)

Day 3: Love is Patient - *1 Corinthians 13* (Page 878); *1 Thessalonians 5:14-15* (Page 907)

Day 4: Endure and be Patient - *2 Timothy 3:10* (Page 915); *James 5:7-11* (Page 932); *Job 1:21* (Page 390)

Day 5: Patience is Not Idle - *1 Thessalonians 5:14* (Page 907); *Hebrews 6:12-15* (Page 923); *Genesis 21:5* (Page 16)

Day 6: New Self - *Colossians 3:1-21* (Page 903); *1 Timothy 6:11* (Page 913)

Day 7: Found Only in Jesus - *John 15:4-5* (Page 824); *2 Timothy 4:3* (Page 915). Read the *Daily Reading* once again and highlight things that stand out. Answer the three Life Transformation questions for growth in this area. Take time to learn the memory verse.

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:12 *"Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."* Colossians 3:12

Life Transformation Questions:

1. As you read the *Daily Reading*, what stood out and why?
2. What action will you take to apply this truth? Be specific.
3. What areas of your life will benefit from this action? How and why?