



Patience

Galatians 5:22-23, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Psalm 103:8-10, 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.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-15, Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. 13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

1. Have you recently encountered a situation where you found it difficult to be patient?
2. Read Psalm 103:8-10. Our patience with others ought to flow out of an understanding of God's patience toward us. What are the areas of your life where you have needed God (and others) to be patient with you?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15. Paul describes the church as a community with a wide range of maturity levels where some pull their weight more than others. What are some ways that you've struggled to show patience to those who are weaker? Are there particular forms of weakness that make you the most impatient?
4. Patience/Forbearance means that we don't impose our own timetable for when others need to "get their act together" and change. It also requires us to humbly acknowledge that the outcome we desire may not necessarily be the change that God wants to bring about in their lives. Instead, by faith, we believe God is at work in every situation and therefore we can treat others with patience, gentleness, and love. Are there relationships where God is calling you to put on this attitude of forbearance?