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Fruit of the Spirit: Patience

Teacher: Scott Waterman

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

* **Introduction**

**Charles Spurgeon**: “Between here and heaven we have no guarantee that the road will be easy, or that the sea will be smooth sailing. We have no promise that we will be kept, like flowers in a greenhouse, safe from the breath of frost, or that we will be veiled from the heat of the sun. The voice of wisdom says, ‘Be patient, be patient, be patient; be ready for the trials that will come.'”

* **What Is Patience? What Is Long-Suffering?**

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

**Patience (noun)**: 1. The suffering of afflictions, pain, toil, calamity, provocation or other evil, with a calm, unruffled temper; endurance without murmuring or fretfulness. Patience may spring from constitutional fortitude, from a kind of heroic pride, or from Christian submission to the divine will. 2. A calm temper which bears evils without murmuring or discontent. 3. The act or quality of waiting long for justice or expected good without discontent. 4. Perseverance; constancy in labor or exertion. 5. The quality of bearing offenses and injuries without anger or revenge.

**Exodus 34:6-7a** (KJV) And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty

**Charles Spurgeon**: “The mute Christian under the afflicting rod is not your everyday person. We kick like an oxen which feels the goad for the first time; we are, most of us, for years like a young bull unaccustomed to the yoke. ‘Be patient, be patient, be patient,’ is the lesson that needs to be repeated to our hearts many times, even as we have to teach children over and over again the very same words, until they know them by heart. It is the Holy Spirit, ever patient at our frustrations, who calls us to be ‘patient.’ It is Jesus, the unmurmuring sacrifice, who charges us to, ‘be patient.’ It is the tolerant and forgiving Father who commands us to ‘be patient.’ Oh, you who are soon to be in heaven, be patient for just a little while longer and your reward will be revealed!”

**Romans 9:22-24** What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

* **Why Is Patience Important?**

**James 5:10-11** As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**John Gil**: [Old Testament prophets] “were sent forth by him [God], and prophesied in his name what were made known unto them; and yet, though these were his favourites, they suffered much; as cruel mockings, scourgings, imprisonment, famine, nakedness, and death in various shapes; some being stoned, others sawn asunder [apart], and others killed by the sword; all which they endured with incredible patience.”

**Jeremiah 20:2** Then Pashhur beat Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the upper Benjamin Gate of the house of the Lord.

**Nehemiah 9:26** “Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies.”

**Matthew 23:37** “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”

**Luke 11:47-48** “Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs.”

**Job 1:13-22** Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and there came a messenger to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

**John Calvin**: “If, however, it be asked, Why does the Apostle [James] so much commend the patience of Job, as he had displayed many signs of impatience, being carried away by a hasty spirit? To this I reply, that though he sometimes failed through the infirmity of the flesh, or murmured within himself, **yet he ever surrendered himself to God, and was ever willing to be restrained and ruled by him**. Though, then, his patience was somewhat deficient, it is yet deservedly commended.”

**Job 42:3, 5-6** “I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know ... Now my eyes see you, therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”

**James 5:7-9** Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

**John Piper**: “The universe, everything that is outside God, exists to display the glory of the grace of God in the sufferings of Christ in the place of sinners. That’s the reason everything exists: to display the glory of the grace of God, which reaches its apex in the sufferings of Christ for sinners.”

**John Piper**: “The aim of the universe necessitates that there’d be suffering, so that the Son of God can suffer for sinners and thus display the greatness of the glory of the grace of God. To put it very starkly, the ultimate reason that suffering exists is so that Christ might suffer for sinners and thus display the magnificence of the grace of God. In conceiving of the universe that he would create in which to display the glory of his grace, he did not choose plan B. He chose plan A, and plan A was Good Friday.”

There is a crimson river that runs through all of the suffering of God’s elect. The source of that river is the veins of the Son of God.

**1 Peter 1:6-9** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith-more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire-may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**1 Peter 5:10** And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

**Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

* **What Is the Impact of God’s Long-Suffering Toward the Reprobate? And What Is the Impact of God’s Long-Suffering Toward the Elect?**

**Matthew 5:45b** “For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”

**2 Peter 3:8-9** But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

**Romans 2:4** Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

**Romans 8:18-25** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

* **How Was Christ Patient in His Earthly Ministry?**

**1 Timothy 1:12-17** I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**1 Peter 2:24-25** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**Luke 22:54-62** Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.” But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.” And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.” But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

**John 21:15-17** When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

* **How Then Do We Reflect Christ in Our Patience?**

**Proverbs 15:18** ​​​​​​​​A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, ​​​​​​​but he who is slow to anger quiets contention. ​​​

**Proverbs 14:29** ​​​​​​​​Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, ​​​​​​​but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly. ​​​

**James 1:2-3** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

**Proverbs 25:15** ​​​​​​​​With patience a ruler may be persuaded, ​​​​​​​and a soft tongue will break a bone. ​​​

**James 3:4-6** Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. ​​​​​​​​​​​How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!​ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

**James 1:19-20** ... let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

**Matthew 24:9-14** “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. **But the one who endures to the end will be saved.** And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

* **Conclusion**

**Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.