

Love Is Patient

“Trust the past to the mercy of God,
the present to His love,
and the future to His providence.”
—Augustine

PATIENCE



When You Pray For Patience

My mother's answered prayers

James 1:3-4 (NLT2)

For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

The Corinthians Were Enamored With Power

- Possessed extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - Those gifts imparted great power.
 - Power to speak in tongues
 - Power of prophetic speech
 - Power of mountain-moving faith
 - Power of wealth

Instead of following The Way of Christ, they just wanted to get Their Way.

The Corinthian Church Was Full of Herself.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV)

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

What They Didn't Have Was A Christ Conditioned Love

1 John 4:9-10 (NIV)

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

**Without Christ-conditioned love, they were
nothing!**

Love is Patient

Relationship Challenges Are

Not

Problems To Be Solved,

But

People To Be Loved.

America Is Experiencing What Could Arguably Be The Most Divided Time In My Lifetime, And Perhaps Since The Since The Civil War.

One Of The Reasons Is Our Lack Of Love-Conditioned Patience.

“The Often Ignored Secret To Godly Patience Is That Patient People Are Positioned With Power, The Power To Do Good.”

In The New Testament, When Patience Is Commended Or Commanded It Is In Contrast To Uncontrolled Or Unconditioned Power.

Galatians 5:19-23

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

The Destructive Attitudes And
Actions Mentioned In Galatians And
1 Corinthians Are Ungodly Attempts
To Wield Power!

Why Do We Do Such Things?

Some Factors and Some Reasons

- Responding to our woundedness
 - Mental illness
 - Pressures of life
 - Over estimation of our opinions
- Paul calls it “acts of the sinful nature.”

Whatever you blame, every relationship in our circle of influence would improve if we embraced a patience that has been conditioned by love of Christ.

Love-Conditioned Patience Is Costly

- Will some take advantage? Might we get run over?
- Did they take advantage of Jesus' patience that was conditioned by his love for the Father and us?

Matthew 26:52-53

"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

Who Gets on Your Last Nerve? Who Makes You Mad?

- People who disagree with you on politics, religion or the way to hang the toilet paper on the roll
- Terrible drivers, people who drive slow in the fast lane or follow too close behind you in the slow lane.
- Maybe it is your out of control children, or your too controlling parents.
- What about those who want to change “the way things have always been.”

If we would be patient, we must submit to work the Holy Spirit who will make it grow it in our lives.

Part of that is praying for patience.

I'm Asking You To Pray This Prayer.

Dear Father, I rely on your loving patience with me every single day. It would be hypocritical to freely drink in your patience-conditioned love for me and then turn around and not extend that same patience to those around me. I pray to be filled with your Holy Spirit so that I will have the strength and courage to be patient. Dear Father...,

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)