

# A Little Patience Please

**John Buttrey II**

Patience. I believe this world would be a lot more peaceful, if there were more patience. If the fellow behind you at the traffic light had more patience, he would save wear and tear on his horn, by not honking when you don't respond to the change of the signal light after .00056 seconds.

Nations would be more patient in peace negotiations. If there were more patience, there would be more "seventy times seven" forgiveness. With more patience, there would be fewer divorces, less violence, more charity, and less criticism of everything and everyone.

There would be far less discouragement from personal failure, because we would all have the patience to try again.

The world would certainly be a better place, and I believe the church would be as well, with more patience. If there were more patience in the church, more people might acknowledge struggles with sin, and seek the prayers of others. More men would try to lead singing, for the congregation would be more patient with them as they learned to pitch a song, or keep the meter correctly. If there were more patience in the church, there would be less jumping from congregation to congregation. Brethren would be committed to the growth of a particular local church.

If there were more patience in the church, there would be more patience with God: in prayer, in understanding His word, in personal growth, and in life in general.

I wonder, why isn't there more patience among the people of God? Patience is listed among the fruit of the Spirit that we are to be developing.

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

Patience is listed by Paul as one the characteristics of true agape love.

*Love is **patient**, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant (1*

Cor.13:4) Emphasis mine.

Paul encouraged patience in Timothy's work as an evangelist.

*Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, **with great patience** and instruction. (2 Timothy 4:2) Emphasis mine.*

We are told that God is patient with us.

*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is **patient** toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9) Emphasis mine.*

With all this instruction about patience, why are we not more patient, with others, with our self, and with God? Ironically, we want others to be more patient with us, but show little patience ourselves, toward others. Jesus said, we are to treat others, as we wish to be treated (Matt. 7:12).

Please, patiently listen to this: God is patient with us. Let us be patient with Him. Scripture demands that we be patient with others. Let us do what the Scriptures teach. The world will be a better place, and so too, the church.

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