



Personal Reflection

Take time this week to pray & reflect on the following:

No one enjoys waiting. Everyone has to wait at one time or another and everyone agrees that given the choice, they would rather not wait. Patience is difficult because humans are aware of the passing of time and are sensitive to our finite presence within it. We live our lives in haste and at the end we wonder, "Where did the time go?"

Being willing to wait, and even seeing the virtue in the experience, is not a natural human proclivity. God wants to teach you how to wait. Waiting on the perfect timing and leading of the Lord is a fundamental part of living by faith. We must have patience because the work He wants to do in our lives takes time. When we wait on the Lord, we affirm His sovereign authority and defer our will to His. The Holy Spirit wants to mature and grow you through the exercise and sharing of the fruit of patience. Your willingness to wait on the Lord, and how you behave while you are waiting, matters very much.

How are you handling the tests of patience that are at work in your life right now? Are you long-suffering in your patience or unsettled and discontented to the extent that it is damaging or deterring your relationship with God? Do you have the courage and wisdom to ask God to teach you patience so that you will not go through life full of anxiety and angst about the future?

Prayerfully confess to the Lord those areas of life in which you are guilty of being impatient and unwilling to wait. Consider how a lack of patience has damaged your faith. Ask God to reaffirm His loving guidance in your heart and mind so that you will not doubt or question His timing. Commit to practice patience towards yourself, others and especially with God. Close your time of prayer giving praise to God for His perfectly timed blessings.

I. The Best Things in Life...

II. Why Must We Wait?

Habakkuk 1:1-5

III. A Call to Patience

James 5:7-11

v. 5-9

Challenge

v. 10-11

Example

IV. Growing in Patience
