

09 23 2020 #315
Christian Church of Waterloo
Patience

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Good evening and welcome to the Christian Church of Waterloo. There is no other place I'd rather be than here on a Wednesday night. We are blessed to have Josh back tonight for another great night of praise and worship. We'll get started in just a little bit.

There's a lot going on at this little church, and we've gotten so much visibility from the community. We must be doing things right because God keeps opening doors for us that we didn't know existed.

Let's start with a prayer:
Lord,

Thank you for bringing us here tonight, into YOUR house. Fill this place with the Holy Spirit and open our ears, our eyes and our hearts to hear and experience YOUR word and the Holy Spirit as we've gathered together in Your Name. In Jesus Name we pray.....Amen.

Josh, it's all your's.

Wasn't that great! Thank you Josh for being here.

Patience. Hmmm. I try really hard to have patience in every circumstance, but there are some things and times I don't have as much patience as others.

I've even been told I have the patience of a saint. I guess it is in the eyes of the beholder. You know God tells us to be patient and wait. Wait upon the Lord. Wait for what He tells us to do. Wait for eternal life.....WAIT.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

So where is your hope when you're impatient?

Isaiah 40:31

but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Paul was one who told us about patience too, but he used a bit different approach. He tells us to keep running the race, fight the good fight, and look forward to eternal life.

Philippians 3:13-14

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Wait for eternal life. How are we supposed to wait for it? With patience. Patience is one of those things we have to be careful for. What I mean is be careful about asking for patience.

Patience seems to be the one thing we ask for that has to be learned, not given. Maybe other things are learned too, but they're not as hard to learn.

Galatians 5:22-23

Love	Goodness
Joy	Faithfulness,
Peace	Gentleness
Forbearance	Self-Control
Kindness	

Did you notice patience is not here? Patience is not one of the Fruits of the Spirit. I've worked on, or asked for these fruits, but they don't come on my like patience does, when I pray for it.

So how do you get patience? I'm afraid patience is a learned trait (characteristic). What's happened with me is when I pray for patience (which I don't do anymore) things start happening to me.

Traffic jams
Get cut off in traffic
Kids start acting up
"Things" just don't seem to go right

Have you ever had that happen? This is what I mean by patience is a learned characteristic, or in God's word, a character builder. Don't gotta love it, but that's what I see happening over and over.

It's not just me, but I've had people tell me about all the things going on in their life and we eventually get around to asking if they've prayed for patience and the answer most of the time is YES.

Patience is a good thing, but it is learned. It is something we all go through in different ways. I sometimes think the more we let go of, the more patience we'll have.

If we take a look at the Fruits of the Spirit, you will have patience as you harvest the fruit. If you have peace, you won't be so impatient. If you have joy, you're more than likely to have patience. If you have faithfulness toward your significant other and definitely God, you'll have patience. If you have self-control, you can control your patience.

Keep in mind, some things don't matter and we make a bigger deal out of them than we need to. Something to remember is the issue of today will more than likely be what we'll be laughing about at Christmas.

2 Timothy 4:7-9

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

When you feel impatient, stop and breathe. Is your impatience something that really matters? Isn't completing the race, eternal life and your salvation the most important things to think about?

If you become impatient this week, stop and breathe. Is the thing you are impatient about actually something to worry about? Is it life changing or circumstance changing? Keep running YOUR race!

Keep the Fires of Christ
burning bright for all to see

Lord,

Thank you that we have you as our God and your Son as our advocate. Help us to see ourselves as you see us and give us strength to carry on and remind us to keep our eyes upon Jesus, especially when times are the toughest. We pray for discernment as we seek your will and your ways. In Jesus name we pray....Amen.

Now Let's sing.....

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for all you've done for us. For opening our eyes and ears to the race you've set out before us. Help us keep our eyes looking ahead and not to the side or behind us for we seek your will for us. Watch over each and every one of us as we go our separate ways and put a protective hedge around us and bring us back safely to your House. In Jesus name we pray.....Amen.