

A Pandemic Survival Kit Sermon Series

by Rev. John C. Tittle

Scripture

Galatians 5:22-23 NRSV

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

James 5:7-11 NRSV

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Discussion

1. Thoughts, questions, observations from the Scripture readings?
2. In what areas have you had to work on patience during the quarantine?
3. In what ways is our culture impatient?
4. How would you define patience? Choose from options below
 - a. God-given restraint
 - b. Resignation—i.e. acceptance of fate
 - c. Ambivalence or passivity
 - d. Waiting upon God
 - e. Being ready to act at the right time
 - f. Long-suffering, long-fused, long-tempered, long-view, slow to judge
 - g. Other
5. When is impatience appropriate? When does it get us in trouble?
6. What do you think of this statement: We need to see time less monetarily and more relationally. How would life be different if we did that?

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7. How might patience help us to enjoy Point A, Point B, and the line in between more?
8. In what ways are the ways and means just as important as the goal?
9. What Bible characters come to mind that demonstrated patience?
10. 1 Timothy 1:16 talks about how Christ has the utmost patience with us.

What are some ways at church and at home we can exhibit the utmost patience with one another?