

CULTIVATE: PATIENCE

February 4, 2018 | Pastor Randy Remington

This is the first part of a short Sunday morning series on “cultivating”, patience and kindness. Before we run out of the room, (remembering what happened last time we asked for patience) let’s consider that these are crucial characteristics to have in our lives. This is especially true in relationships, both with God and the world.

If you think honestly about the world and culture around us, we can see that both of these characteristics are in short supply. As we approach this study, we can’t help but think about the patience and kindness God shows us and the world.

These two characteristics start to become more in focus for us when we read this scripture:

1 Corinthians 13:4a, “Love is patient, love is kind.”

Both Patience and kindness are a manifestation of love. When you are being patient with someone, you are loving them.

Galatians 5:22a, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness...”

Pastor Randy pointed out that “we are in a hurry, but God isn’t”. But we realize that the source of most impatience is narcissism, it’s all about me, the world revolves around me. On the other hand, when we develop patience, it touches every part of our lives.

A recent study has identified a spike in college age kids with severe anxiety. It usually manifests itself when something frustrating or adverse happens and it quickly becomes a crisis. We know that the area between the adverse circumstance and the crisis...is patience!

The author of this letter, named “James”, was written by the half-brother of Jesus. Even though James was Jesus brother, he came to see that he was the Messiah and the Son of God. He became the Pastor or leader of the church in Jerusalem, as the church was dispersed throughout the world.

Church tradition tells us that his nickname was “camel knees”, based on the fact that he spent a lot of time patiently praying; let’s read what he wrote:

James 5:7-11, “Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. 9 Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! 10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”

James uses the illustration of a “farmer”, which all of his leaders would be familiar with. The landowner would cultivate the ground, plant seeds and wait and wait. There would be long periods where nothing would happen. The farmers would wait through the dry season and finally the rain would come. This was called the first rain. This rain would soften the soil so that the ground could be cultivated. As the farmer finally sees the fruits of his labor, the latter rain comes. This latter rain makes a better harvest and the fruit sweeter. No wonder the rains were seen as favor and a blessing from God.

There are two original Greek words used for “patience” in the Bible.

1. HYPOMONE:

- Patience in trials, circumstances and in everyday life
- Long fused, slow boiling, hyper-standing

This word is never used in relation to God. But for us, it is a huge part of our lives every day.

“Cultivate patience through reframing the situation”

James 5:7, “Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop.”

While you wait, sow to the Spirit - work at your spiritual life.

- You reap what you sow
- You reap more than you sow
- You always reap in a different season than you sow

“Cultivate patience through delayed gratification”

We are all very aware that we live in a world that expects immediate gratification in all areas of our lives. So it is true that:

“Impatience usually comes when I am not getting my way”

James 1:3-4, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect (mature) and complete, lacking nothing.”

“Patience is essential for maturity; the most valuable things in our lives take time”

2. **MAKROTHYMEO:**

- Patience with people
- Longsuffering

This is God type patience, an example for us in our marriages and other relationships. For us it can be described as “mutual patience” between a husband and wife.

In a very practical sense in relationships, it’s not a matter of trying to fix the other person. Not only are you not trying to fix them, but if there is a delayed response, you must have patience as you wait and believing that he is not done.

Bring this patience to all of your relationships and encounters. The literal meaning of this word is, that the heat and anger is far from me.

James 5:10-11, “Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”

“Cultivate patience by leaning into your mission”

We have examples of this patience through the centuries and millenniums; “Job didn’t stop praying and Jeremiah didn’t stop preaching.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

James 5:9, "Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!"

Ephesians 4:1-2, "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

James 5:8-9, "You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near...The Judge is standing at the door!"

"Cultivate patience by looking forward to the coming of Jesus"

2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

1 Timothy 1:15-17, "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

Hebrews 12:2-3, "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. For those of us who have walked with Jesus for a period of time, gaining patience can be a scary request. Discuss together your experience of asking for patience. Has God cultivated this characteristic in you or is God just beginning to cultivate this in you?
2. Pastor Randy pointed out a few things at the beginning of our sermon study, discuss if these are your experience and observations also:
 - **First there is a short supply of both patience and kindness both in our world.**
 - **Secondly, despite the short supply in our world, God has constantly displayed his kindness and showed amazing patience with us and the world in general**
 - **Thirdly, both Patience and kindness are a manifestation of love, according to I Cor. 13:4a.**
3. We learned that there are two original Greek words used for "patience" in the Bible. Discuss what we learned about the word "Hypomone" and discuss the 4 quotes (in blue).
4. Let's look at the second original word translated 'patience', "Makrothymeo".
5. What did you learn from the "additional scriptures" section at the end of your notes?