



Series: The Fruit of the Spirit  
**In God's Place, at God's Pace**  
Galatians 5:22-23

To see the kind of transformation the Holy Spirit wants to accomplish, we are in a series of sermons on the fruit of the Spirit. Today we will explore the fruit of patience.

μακροθυμία mā-kro (long/far) -thū-mē'-ä (hot, anger, or wrath)

The idea is a contrast to being short-tempered; but rather 'long-tempered'.

It is the fruit that allows us to look at people and not their circumstances or behaviour. The part of us that can see beyond the surface to find the true person that God created and loves.

**1. God is patient; is He \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

Peter notes the intimate connection with God's patience and our repentance, using the apparent delay of Christ's return as an example of God's different way of looking at time.

2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-9, 14-15

God's patience does have a purpose; it is not simply restraint for the sake of restraint. From our perspective, Jesus' return seems to be connected to His desire to see all come to repentance.

God \_\_\_\_\_ to people in order to give them time to return to Him.

**2. Following God's lead; are we \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

As we interact with those around us we need to \_\_\_\_\_ to people in order for them to become who they can be.

**3. What are the obstacles to our patience?**

Having a \_\_\_\_\_.

As we surrender ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we will: intentionally immerse ourselves in His Word; welcome His healing touch to our spirit; serve Him with joy; and worship Him in all we do.

- Look back to this past week, and consider those times that you have found yourself growing impatient. Are you forcing your view of time into the situation?
- Is your impatience surfacing your wounded spirit that needs to be healed?
- How does your life reveal that patience is both a prerequisite for and a consequence of growth in the Spirit?
- What needs to change in order for you to be living in 'God's Place'?
- How are you intentionally living your life to journey at 'God's Pace'?

**The fruit of patience allows us to increasingly see people's progress, including our own, through the lens of God's perspective.**