

January 30, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Gal. 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (NIV)*

The fourth fruit that we have, because of the Spirit living within us, is forbearance! The Greek word is **makrothumia** which means *longsuffering, endurance and full of patience*. Look around at this world we live in and ask yourself if there is very much patience? In fact, one of the most disturbing trends in our country right now is 'road rage.' I was reading about an incident where an older gentleman was going too slow on the freeway, and it was keeping a man who needed to get to work from being able to pass. So, the upset man, after honking and make many obscene gestures, decided to ram the old man from behind and pushed him off the road and into a ditch. The man was critically injured as the impatient man didn't even stop but continued on as if nothing had happened. Fortunately, another driver who had witnessed the whole incident, called in the man's license plate and he was later arrested. You might be thinking that this is a rare situation, but it is really not. It is happening more and more frequently in our country and around the world. You may have even found yourself in a situation like this. There seems to be so much agitation and indolence in this world because people aren't getting what they think they deserve. It's all about them.

The reason that we need forbearance is that it is what the LORD has for us. He is so very patient with us. And aren't you glad that He is? God's Word reminds us about this characteristic of the LORD that He desires for us to have as well. **1 Pt. 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. (NIV)*

When we are patient with each other, we are displaying the attitude of Christ that He has for us. As the Holy Spirit leads us, we will become more and more patient and less likely to lose our temper and lash out towards others because we will realize that this is really not about us, it is about Him and bringing Him glory. **Rom. 15:5-6** *May the god Who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ. (NIV)*

Dear LORD, thank You for being so very patient with us. We continually choose our own way and allow the things of this world to affect us toward selfish behavior. But You, oh LORD, are patient with us and continue to lead us and guide us. We are so blessed to have a patient Father Who will walk along side of us and help us in our times of need. In Jesus Name, Amen