

Trans
~~CONFORM~~
TRANSFORMING PATIENCE

2 Corinthians 3:18: So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

Hebrews 12:1-2: Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

As we focus on learning how to stop conforming to the world's system of thoughts, beliefs, attitudes, and actions and ask God to transform us by growing the Fruit of His Spirit in our lives, we hopefully are beginning to recognize the differences and are getting more excited about this transformation that can and must take place. Our world is filled with chaos, confusion, and conflict, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, our minds can be renewed and we can exhibit the Fruits of Love, Joy, and Peace to those around us. This week we're looking at the next very important fruit which is patience. This is a fruit we desperately need!

1A) PERSONAL: Using 2 Corinthians 3:18, explain how we can measure whether we're being transformed or not.

1B) PERSONAL: What's your opinion concerning personal relationships or business partnerships with people who do not exhibit basically any of the Fruit of the Spirit in their every day lives?

2A) PERSONAL: How would you describe "Patience?"

2B) Compare the definitions of the following words which all seem to be used interchangeably in Scripture.

Patience:

Longsuffering:

Endurance:

Forbearance:

3A) Looking at the context of our focus passage of Hebrews 12:1-2, who are we surrounded by and why should this be inspiring for us?

3B) According to verse 1, what should we do because of this?

4) PERSONAL: Look carefully at the following passages. How are you encouraged about the importance of patience?

Isaiah 30:18:

Luke 15:10:

2 Peter 3:9:

Read Colossians 3:12-15:

5A) By comparing this passage with Galatians 5:22-23, list the similarities and the differences you find.

5B) PERSONAL: How do you think this passage also deals with the concept of us being transformed?

6) PERSONAL: How would you rate your patience with situations in your life, with others, with yourself? In what situations do you have the most difficulty being patient?

Read James 5:7-8:

7A) What illustration did James use to describe patience?

7B) PERSONAL: How does this illustration help you understand what patience should look like in your life?

ACT: Patience is so necessary to maintain the fruits of Peace, Joy, and Love in our lives, but oftentimes patience is very difficult to find. We are running the race of life and we need God's help to be able to run with endurance the course that He has set before us. As usual, Jesus is our example to follow, so we need to keep our eyes focused on Him. Let's ask God to give us: 1) the ability to lay aside the weights and sins that slow us down and trip us up and 2) the strength to endure with patience the trials and afflictions that come.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's read various passages that include encouraging words for us to be patient.

Monday:

Psalm 27:14 NLT

Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.

Tuesday:

Psalm 37:7 NLT

Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.

Wednesday:

Psalm 40:1 NLT

I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry.

Thursday:

Romans 2:4 NLT

Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

Friday:

Romans 8:25 NLT

But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.

Saturday:

2 Corinthians 6:4 NLT

In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind.

Sunday:

Hebrews 10:36 NLT

Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

