

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

5. Patience



Introduction

We live in a world where things happen and move quickly. Computers, hand phones, credit cards, instant cash, instant noodles ...! Although we live in this kind of world God wants his people to develop patience in their lives. How does your life measure up in this area? Are we becoming more patient?

- ◆ What is patience, and how would you describe a patient person?

(A person who is patient does not get irritated or angry quickly, but is long-suffering and long tempered.)

- ◆ What does Ecclesiastes 7:8-9 teach us about a patient person?

(A person who is patient does not quickly get stirred up or provoked in his spirit. His spirit stays quiet and calm, as patience comes from within.)

- ◆ Most of us have probably been impatient sometimes! Perhaps different things make us feel impatient. What are the things that make you impatient most easily?

- ◆ Perhaps you can look back and see that already God has begun to change you. What has God used in your life to help change you?

- ◆ How can we continue to be changed and become more patient according to Galatians 5:22, 24-25?

(First of all we need to realise that impatience is sinful and ask God to forgive us, and ask him to change us from the inside. Daily we need to yield to the Holy Spirit who lives within us as believers and allow him to control our lives. As we do, he will produce the fruit of patience in our lives.)

- ◆ In Colossians 1:9-12 the Apostle Paul prays that the believers may have great endurance and patience. Meditate on these verses and share your thoughts with one another.

Conclusion

Aren't you glad that God is patient! In 1 Corinthians 13:4 it says, "Love is patient." Let's pray and ask God to continue to work in our lives by his Spirit, so that we become more patient, and more like him.