

**[1]**  
**Growing in Peace**  
**Galatians 5: 22-23, James 5: 7-11**  
**March 8th, 2015, Steve Karadimas**

Start by walking up to the stage, sit down go over my notes, drink some water, and wait about 1 minute without saying anything.

Start off: sorry, I thought that it would be fun while we're talking about growing in patience to try testing everyone's patience out a little bit, by doing absolutely nothing, some of you probably felt really awkward, some of you were probably starting to get a little frustrated as to why nothing was happening, and some of you may have taken the opportunity to take a nap. I started by testing your patience here at church, but everyday our patience is tested to some degree. We have red lights on dogwood, we got line ups everywhere, people who talk really slowly, slow drive through services, etc. The first job I ever had was actually at Tim Hortons, and one thing that every fast food employee knows is how impatient our culture is.

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This is something that shines through in the fast food industry for some reason. And the best example of this is in the drive through because people don't like to make complete fools of themselves in the middle of a store with everybody looking but when they can sit in their car and talk into a machine then they all of a sudden feel the confidence to say incredibly mean things.

I was working the drive through one day when I was about 16 making 8 dollars an hour while I was working my butt off. and we had to change the till over because it wasn't working for some reason so we had to get the manager in there and move all the stuff around and the drive through got backed up pretty bad, and a few people had to wait almost ten minutes for their food, which is a long time for a drive through, I'll give them that.

However, the comments I received from those people when they got to the window were the most hateful words, words that are usually reserved for serial killers were given to a 16 year old kid working slowly at a drive through. Why is it that people get angrier when they have to wait ten minutes for food than when they hear about what Isis is doing around the world. This is unfortunately true, I get angrier when I have to wait for slow drivers when I'm in a rush than when I hear that Christians are being killed around the world what the heck is wrong with me? and unfortunately I don't think it's just me, I wish it was just me but this is almost all of us. Who has seen someone get horrendously angry after they've had their patience tested for a couple minutes? who themselves have become very angry when they've had their patience tested for a couple minutes?

**[3]**

Alright, it's not just me.

I know many people that are wonderful, kind, generous, and generally joyful people but as soon as their patience is tested they become mean and angry and heartless. And this is the vast majority if not all of us, even if you don't lash out after your patience is tested I am sure that you start thinking nasty things when your patience is tested. We all need to grow in patience every one of us.

I just in the past year became aware of how impatient I am.

It became obvious to me when Sarah and I were on a road trip and we spent the night in this hotel and we went to check out the next day and we get to the checkout and theres this sign that says you have to check out at the hotel next door.

And in my head I start thinking that this is absolutely ridiculous what kind of shoddy no good hotel would make me walk for nearly one minute to the next door hotel so that I could leave the hotel that I already left so that I could leave.

and as I was walking that 45 second walk I started to think why am I so mad about this, is it really that big of a deal that I have to walk over here, this isn't really that bad of a walk, it's kinda nice actually and by the time I was done thinking about that I was there and I checked out.

my impatience shows in almost every area of my life, a nerdy fact about myself is when I'm not working in ministry I have what I like to call a side job, that makes me almost no money. But I am a semi professional gamer, and I play a fighting game, but the reason why I can't beat the really good people is because i'm even impatient in the video game, I don't want to wait for the other person to come to me, I just run forward and get going really fast even if it's a bad idea. I can't even be patient in a video game.

but I know that's the most I can talk about video games before I start to lose most of you, so lets go into scripture and have a look at what the bible says about patience:

[4]

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. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!”***

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***Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 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”***

when the bible talks about patience it often brings up trials, and suffering and waiting patiently for the Lord. I can't find anywhere in the scriptures where it says wait patiently for the 13 year old Mcdonalds employee to get your fries, or wait patiently when you hit 8 red lights in a row on Dogwood, it doesn't talk about the every day things that test your patience, and the reason why is probably that people used to be a lot more patient. Our culture and technology have merged to make everything happen so quick that we now demand everything to be ready instantly.

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So I made this scientific graph here to describe how impatient our culture is becoming with better technology. I recently got a used Ipad2 for my wife for valentines day, it was a sweet deal I only paid 50 bucks for it, and we're on it for a while and we're thinking this thing is kinda slow I have to wait like, almost 2 seconds for it to magically load this internet thing. and just a couple years ago that was fast but now it's slow. and the new Ipad that only costs 8 times as much saves me one second every time I load up a website. Do you ever think that the fact that people will spend thousands of dollars to save them seconds is a huge testament to how impatient our

culture is? So our culture with technology getting faster and faster I would say that our patience is shorter and shorter.

look at what James says to wait patiently for, **the Lords coming**. James is one of the first written books of the new testament it was written somewhere between 45 and 50 AD. so about 15 years after Jesus had died. Let's go back to how they must have been feeling. Jesus time and time again tells them to be ready for the second coming.

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luke 12: 40: ***You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.***

[8]

john 14: 1-3: ***“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[a]; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.***

[9]

matthew 24: 40-44 ***“Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.***

***42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”***

Jesus doesn't come out and say hey I'm coming tomorrow but he sure makes it sound like he's coming soon, and at this point, they've been waiting 15 years, have you ever waited 15 years for something? probably not, but even if you did have to wait 15 years for something it wouldn't be under the same circumstances as the early Christians waiting for the Lords return.

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Acts 12 actually looks back at a time around this was written and says: ***About that time King Herod Agrippa began to persecute some believers in the church. 2 He had the apostle James (John’s brother) killed with a sword. 3 When Herod saw how much this pleased the Jewish people, he also arrested Peter. (This took place during the Passover celebration. 4 Then he imprisoned him, placing him under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring Peter out for public trial after the Passover. 5 But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him.***

people were being killed for believing in Jesus, So not only are they waiting for years for Jesus to come back, but while they are waiting they are fearing that their lives will be taken from them, that is the kind of patience that scripture calls us to. Which to be honest leaves me a little stuck, the bible talks about being patient when you're waiting for years for Jesus to return and your brothers and sisters in Christ are getting killed and we struggle with waiting too long to get a fast food burger. I believe this shows us just how much we have to grow in patience because I feel like we're not even close to the level of patience that God calls us too.

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I feel like there's a disconnect here, but let me continue on reading in James, after it says to wait for the Lords coming it says this ***“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!"***

He uses the example of a farmer, and I think this is a great example, Jeff talks a lot about gardening and I know that Jeff doesn't claim to be a pro gardener but I can guarantee you that no matter how bad you are at gardening I am worse. I suck at keeping things alive, my plants die, I had fish when I was a kid, they all died untimely deaths, I had a hamster that died after a couple months, thank goodness my dog is still alive, but that probably has more to do with Sarah than me, but I am certainly not a good gardener, not good at keeping things alive.

But from what I know about Gardening, there's some stuff that you can do, and then there's stuff that is completely out of your hands and you just need patience. So this gardener it talks about here in James, I'm sure he's done what he's supposed to do, he's planted the seed, he's done whatever he needs to do to the soil and now it just says he's waiting for the rain. Now In Campbell River we don't usually have to wait too long for the rain so that might not be the best analogy for us. But that would be like waiting for the snow. here we are in March and we haven't really had a snowfall this winter, there's nothing we can really do about it, we just have to wait. Sometimes that's difficult, I'm sure if you own Mt. Washington and you've been waiting two years for it to snow, you would be sick and tired of waiting, but, there's not really anything you can do.

There's not really anything we can do to change the situations we're in that test our patience. When you're in the long line up will yelling at the cashier make things go by faster? no. When your at a red light will honking your horn make it change to green? no. When you're trying to get somewhere fast and you speed to get there will it get you there faster? maybe if you don't get in an accident or get a speeding ticket.

A lot of the time we think that hurrying is a solution to patience. That we won't need any patience as long as we do things really fast. I have unfortunately found that to not be the case because you can't control what other people do. No matter how fast you drive you're always going to find two cars travelling in separate lanes going the exact same very slow speed as each other and hurrying will not help you.

Being patient is actually the only solution.

Look at Abraham and Sarah, God says that they'll have a son, and then they wait, and they wait and they wait, and 5 years go by and they start to think this is taking way to long, let's come up with a way to do this because God is taking too long, so in comes hagar, and boom, 9 months later we get ishmael.

And I would think that this would be a happy time for abraham, he's thinking look we did it, I have a son now, thanks God. Then an angel comes and says, ok this son that you're super excited for ***"He will be a wild donkey of a man;***

***his hand will be against everyone  
and everyone's hand against him,  
and he will live in hostility  
toward all his brothers."***

darn, that really sucks, that doesn't sound like a good promise, so they go back to the waiting game and they keep waiting to have another son but this time with Sarah. Well after another short 15 years of waiting that happens. And they have their son Isaac.

But in that time there was a lot of anger, there was hurt, there was adultery, there was pain, there was fighting. It wasn't easy to be patient for 20 years.

they tried to hurry the process when what they actually needed was patience.

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And we start to see that in this case a lack of patience leads you into other sin. In this case it was adultery, but in your life you have probably seen that a lack of patience leads to other sin too, it could be anger, it could be lying, it could be lust and that's why it's so dangerous.

So what do you do when your patience is being tested? do you try to hurry or do you pursue patience?

If you're anything like me and this is difficult for you. what really helps is not to just try and pursue patience because that's tunnel vision, but to take a moment with God. it's actually amazing when your struggling with patience if you look to God for a moment and just spend some time with him, his Spirit actually comes upon you and gives you patience. So that's what I'm trying to do. I try to frontload that into my brain everyday to pursue God when I'm struggling with impatience or anything else, to spend a moment with God and allow his Spirit to calm me down.

The Spirit leads you towards patience but without the Spirit our flesh leads us to Impatience but also so many other destructive behaviours look at Galatians 5: 19-21 ***"The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like."*** Again we see that Impatience doesn't come alone, it leads to so many destructive sins, that is why this is so dangerous, an impatient heart can bring about so many other destructive sins, and on the other hand if we learn to grow in patience you'll see that so many other areas of your life will see growth.

The only way to combat sin is with love, that's how God did it, because he loved the world he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him wouldn't perish but have eternal life. We see in 1 corinthians 13 verse 4, it starts off by describing love by saying love is \_\_\_\_\_ what?

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Patient. it is the first listed attribute of love in 1 corinthians 13, it goes on to say ***"love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."***

but it starts off by saying love is patient, what that means is that patience will be a side effect of love. It also means if your lacking in patience it doesn't just mean that you're impatient, it means you're also unloving. So what I really feel is the answer isn't just patience, I feel like with a lot of the fruits of the Spirit you can kind of fake them to a degree, you can fake being patient on the outside when really your burning on the inside, you can fake being kind by doing nice things but thinking awful things on the inside. But there's a reason why love is the first one listed, it breathes purpose into all the other fruits of the Spirit, and if you're loving you will be patient,

kind, and joyful naturally. So if you want to grow in patience, you need to grow in love first, so if you missed that sermon, go on the website and listen to that one first, because we all need to grow in love.

And patience is just one of those beautiful side effects of love. So we all have room to grow in patience, things are going to test your patience daily, and the more patience that you grow in, it seems that God might just take the next opportunity to test your patience even more. Examples of this kind of patience are hard to find so I have to look to God and tell you about his patience with me and I'll close with this.

### [15]

I grew up with quite a few opportunities to hear about God, I went to church, I went to a Christian school, but I chose not to care. I had seen God bless me in so many ways, he provided for me in every way. When I was in high school I decided that I didn't really care. I wanted to do things my way, so I chose partying over God. Did God give up on me? no. He somehow opened up a path for me to get into a year of bible college and he revealed to me that a relationship with him is what I need. After that I just got back together with my old friends and nothing really changed. I was working some random job and still going out and partying and all that. did God give up on me? no. I remember that for some reason I was angry with my family, and so I wanted to leave the country and God guided me to New York where I was in full time ministry and that's where I heard the loudest, most obvious call to ministry from God. I knew when I was in New York that I was meant to be working with youth in ministry. Then I got back and I held it off, I got a job working with special needs adults, and I volunteered a little bit with a youth ministry back in Victoria, but I wasn't doing what God had called me to do, I was just sort of testing the waters when God was calling me to dive in.

The youth Pastor that I was working with just kept on pushing me and pushing me and telling me to get into this and go into ministry, but I had so much that I was holding on to that I didn't want to give up. did God give up on me? no. So God had tried gently nudging me into ministry, he had tried loudly calling me into ministry and it wasn't working. he had been so patient with me. If God wasn't the most patient being of all time he would have already given up on me, but God wasn't done with me yet. There was one day January 1st 2010 where I woke up, I had a girlfriend, I was living in an apartment downtown, I was working with special needs adults, and I was volunteering a little bit at a youth ministry.

I was expecting a regular day, what happened was my girlfriend broke up with me, I talked with the youth Pastor about it and somehow the topic changed and he said that I can become an intern for the church but I need to have two years of schooling done to get in. So I need to get a year of schooling done in half a year, so I drive to the college, by the time I get there I have just under an hour to sign up for the 7 classes that I need to be in this semester, I finish creating my schedule for classes with two minutes to spare. I then realize that I'm working 20 hours at a church and I have 7 classes and I don't have much time, so I have to quit my job, with absolutely no notice, my boss was not happy with me. Then I realize that after I quit my job I have absolutely no money and I have to pay rent, so I work a deal with my cousin who was living with my parents and wanted to get out, so we switched places and I started living with my parents.

so to recap, I broke up with my girlfriend, started in ministry, started school, quit my job and moved in one day, it was a busy day. God had been patient with me my whole life. He patiently waited as I ignored him, as I chose everything else before I chose him, he never once did anything too harsh with me, he was just waiting for me to do what he had planned for me to do and

finally I came around. That's God's patience, and I know I am not the only one he has been patient with here, you can all look at your own lives and see how God has been immensely patient with each and every one of you. If we want to grow in patience we need to grow in our relationship with God the creator of patience.

**Galatians: Learning to Live in the Freedom of Christ**  
**Growing in Patience**  
**Galatians 5:22-23; James 5:7-11**  
**Week of March 8th, 2015**

**Worship**

**Objective of this study: to see God's patience with us, and the reasons for us to have patience with each other.**

**Worship (5 – 10 minutes)**

- 1. Spend five minutes in silent prayer asking God to prepare your heart for how he wants to speak to you.**
- 2. After the five minutes of silence have someone interrupt the silence and read Psalm 130 meditatively to the group. Then pause for about a minute and let it sink in.**
- 3. Sing a song or two of praise and thanksgiving to God.**

**Welcome (5 – 10 minutes)**

**How did the Holy Spirit nudge you to grow in patience this past week? Share some stories**

**Word (20 - 30 minutes)**

- 1. What stood out from the sermon?**
- Read (or recite! :) Galatians 5:22-23.
- What are some things that illustrate how impatient our culture is?
- Sermon quote: **"Everyday our patience is tested to some degree."**  
What are some things that tested your patience this past week? Or in general, even beyond last week, what are some things that cause you to lose your patience?
- Read James 5:7-12.
- What are some key words and concepts in this passage? How is perseverance related to patience? What else do you see here that relates to patience? (See, for example, what James mentions in verse 9.)
- What reasons does James give to be patient? Why is farming a good example to use here?

**Work (30 - 40 minutes)**

- How do you feel, what happens inside you, when someone is impatient with you? How does it affect you?
- What's going on inside you when you feel impatient, or when you lose your patience.?
- Sermon quote: **"A lack of patience leads you into other sin." How does this happen?**  
**What kinds of other sins?**
- In 1 Corinthians 13:4, "Love is patient" comes first. Think about the patience-love connection. How is patience loving, and impatience unloving?
- How does patience open up the way for love and good relationships?
- Read James 1:19-20. What role does listening play in patience, and in loving?
- What are some life-giving ways others have been patient with you? How has God been patient with you?
- Sermon quote: **"So what do you do when your patience is being tested?...What really helps is to take a moment with God. It's actually amazing when you're struggling with patience if you look to God for a moment and just spend some time with him. His Spirit actually comes upon you and gives you patience... I try to frontload that into my brain**



**everyday to pursue God when I'm struggling with impatience or anything else, to spend a moment with God and allow his Spirit to calm me down."**

Have you tried this? What were the results?

#### **PRAYER TIME/HOMEWORK**

Try journaling, telling God honestly about your feelings, and let Him comfort you.

To help you with this, read Psalm 42.

For further study, read Matthew 5:1-12.