

Fruit of the Spirit Patience

Dr. David Shaw

1. Patience has a number of different meanings:
 - a. It means enduring abuse, the ability to suffer a long time under the mistreatment of others without growing bitter or resentful
 - b. It means being able to withstand provocation
 - c. It means being able to tolerate the shortcomings of others. See Ephesians 4:2-3
 - d. It means being able to wait on God, able to not only accept God's will but God's timetable as well.
2. Patience derives from our salvation through Jesus in a very direct way: Through the life and death of Jesus, an act in which you had no say, which you did not merit, and which provides you with a benefit you cannot earn, you have been brought into loving communion with God. Jesus endured the ultimate in endurance and unjust tribulation, solely for your benefit. Given that, we are never entitled to pronounce that some lesser degree of endurance, or tolerance, or delay, is beyond reasonable expectations.
3. The Development of Patience
 - a. The easy advice is to be slow to anger, but why is this so hard?
 - b. Much of our impatience can be addressed through:
 - recognition that we are not so good ourselves that we can be short with others
 - recognition that much of what provokes our impatience is not really all that important
 - recognition that a little overt forgiveness can solve much
 - recognition that carrying around impatience means deliberately carrying a sin and can be mitigated by asking for forgivenessRead Matthew 18:21-35 and point out the connection between the gospel and patience.