



Conversations On Who We Are Becoming

Week 6: Conversations about patience

Opening Questions

1. What is your experience with the farming life? Did you grow up on a farm? Have family members who are farmers? Do you garden?

2. Would the people who know you best describe you as:
 - a. A patient person
 - b. An aspiring patient person
 - c. A typically impatient person
 - d. None of the the above

Opening Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We join in all creation in honoring you. In these unsettling times grant us your peace so that we may rest in your loving presence. Cause us to grow in patience and perseverance as we wait for your kingdom to come and for your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

Read James 5:7-11 slowly and out loud. Read it twice if that is helpful.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the

doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Reflection Questions

1. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. Why is patience so hard for so many people?
3. What situations in life cause you to become the most impatient?
4. What can we learn about patience by observing farmers?
5. Why does it seem that grumbling and complaining follows soon after our patience runs out?
6. Who has been an example of endurance that you can draw strength from?

Final Questions

1. Patience is a part of the fruit of the Spirit. Pause for a moment and reflect on the Spirit's work in your life. Where have you seen the evidence of patience in your life?
2. We participate with the Holy Spirit and grow in patience when we do patient things. What can you do to practice patience this week?