



## BREAKING THE ICE

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How long does it take you to lose your patience when you are waiting in line for something?

Who is the most patient person you know? Why would you categorize them as the most patient person?

## MAIN CONTENT

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As we continue our series on “What the World Needs Now,” this week Pastor Kevin talks about needing patience.

When things are out of our control, we need patience. Patience is less about circumstances and more about people. The only person we can control is ourselves and if we can only control ourselves, then we need patience with people in order to have healthy relationships.

1. Which relationships in your life do you have to practice the most patience?

Patience and self-control are fruits of the spirit. When we are filled with the Spirit of God, patience and self-control should flow out of that.

Read Galatians 5: 13-26

In order to have any change or transformation, you need patience. It takes time to become better.

2. Where have you experienced patience (from others) in the process of your own transformation?

God is so patient with us. We wander, we get distracted, we sin and He’s still there waiting patiently for us to come back to Him.

Because God is so patient with us, we need to be patient with others. A true sign of love is being patient (1 Corinthians 13:4).

3. Where have you felt God's patience in your life? How has that patience helped you have the patience for others?

Pastor Kevin talked about patience and long-suffering, that long-suffering can be like having a long fuse. God patiently waits for us. He forgives us, He waits for us to continually come back to Him and put our trust in Him. His patience is part of His timing.

**Patience is being willing to suffer uncomfortable things for the good of the relationship and the good of the other person.** Patience comes from the Spirit of God, it's only through Him can we have this patience because He is patient with us.

4. Where are you currently needing to practice patience in your life?

Patience is hard, but with God's help, we can practice it. When we take the time to remember God's patience with us, it reminds us to have patience with others. When we sit in solitude and ask God to reveal to us where we need His patience, He will tell us.

When we choose to sit in solitude and listen to God, He reveals things to us that draw us near Him. He shows us where the sin in our lives is keeping us from loving Him and patiently loving others well.

5. How do you remember God's patience with you? Do you practice solitude in your life? If so, explain how that time of solitude reflects in your relationship with Jesus.

Another way to practice patience with others is to remember they everyone is a work in progress, just like you. God changes people, not us. When we try to change others it leads to guilt, shame and manipulation.

We have to remember we can't expect people who don't know Jesus to have the compassion, love and kindness that Jesus exemplifies. Even followers of Jesus are not perfect, they need patience too. However, we can practice patience by asking God to help you love others through Him.

6. Are there currently people in your life whom you need to practice patience with (p.s. you do not have to say their name out loud)? What are some ways you can remember we are all a work in progress?

The last thing we need to remember about patience is that patience is not passive, it is active.

When we practice patience, God wants to cut back the things in our lives that keep us from growing in our relationship with Him. Leaving toxic relationships, unfollowing people on social media, going to counseling for some emotional health are all examples of the pruning God wants to do in our lives. Maybe God is asking

you to take a look in your life where your patience with something needs to lead to pruning that thing?

7. What are some things you have been patient with that God needs to prune?

We are in a constant process to be better and God is patiently waiting to prune us to be more like Him so we can share his hope, love and patience with those who do not know Him.

## CLOSING PRAYER

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God, thank you for your patience with us. Where we may feel alone and feel forgotten, will you remind us of the love you have for us? Remind us of the patience you have with us so we can practice that patience with others. Reveal to us where we need to be pruned to grow closer to you and practice what the world needs from you through us, in Jesus' name, Amen.

## ACTION STEP

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If you don't already, practice solitude this week. Take 5-10 minutes to sit with God. Thank Him for what He does in your life and ask Him these things:

1. God, what in my life needs to be pruned by you?
2. Whom do I need to be patient with?
3. Whom do I need to reach out to in order to show your love to them?

Be still, listen and open yourself up for him to talk to you. Repent and obey what He asks you to do.