



# Brown CG Zoom Session

## Better Together: Patience

### July 12, 2020

#### I. Starter Questions:

Is there an area of your life that you are struggling to demonstrate patience? Is there a particular person with whom you find it difficult to be patient? How does your impatience usually manifest itself: Anger? Annoyance? Sarcasm? Judgment? Discontentment?

What do you think is the underlying reason for your impatience: Pride? Control? Comfort? Fear? Selfishness? Distrust? Why do we not have patience problems with others or in other situations?

#### II. Discussion of Scripture:

Paul went to visit Thessalonica around 49 A.D. The city was crucial to the Roman Empire and almost became the capital of the world because of the waterways and the amount of trade & commerce that happened there. Paul, Silas & Timothy led the charge as they shared the gospel to the people in Thessalonica. Other than sharing the message of Christ, they were there to encourage the believers and plant the church. The background of the church can be read in Acts 17:1-9. Paul's letter (with help from Silas & Timothy) gives the new believers some guidance on holy living, having hope for the future, and encouragement through the suffering and persecution they were facing.

Paul ends his first letter to the Thessalonians by emphasizing what community actually looks like and why it is so important. Our communities should be shaped by the gospel message and as Jesus says in John 17:23, "Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." What nonbelievers think of Jesus is directly related to what they see in the Christian communities around them. Paul knows this and has some very encouraging things to say to the Thessalonians.

#### **1Thessalonians 5:12-24**

***12 We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. 15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.***

**Colossians 1:11-12**

***May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.***

**Colossians 3:12-13**

***Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.***

**Galatians 5:22-23**

***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.***

**III. Questions for Discussion:**

1. List and discuss from 1 Thessalonians the characteristics Paul lays out for what a good community looks like? How can you do these same things in our community?
2. Why is patience with the timid, weak, or idle so difficult? (v14) What prohibits you from being patient with people?
3. In Verse 19, what are some ways that we can "Quench the Spirit?" How can you be more aware of this in your own life?
4. Verse 24 Paul says that He who calls you is faithful, discuss why this is so comforting?

**IV. Responding in Prayer:**

1. Ask God to help you see people through His eyes, and for sensitivity to the Spirit's conviction.
2. Ask for God's help you to be patient, kind, and compassionate to those around you.