

## Patience

I have always loved the words of Paul to the Thessalonians 1 verses 1 to 4.

Taking those greetings and turning the scriptures into prayer for loved ones, friends and family.

Particularly verse three, “remembering without ceasing. Your work of faith, labour of love and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of God the Father”

Are we a patient people? Most of us feel that our patience has been tested to certain limits during the past fifteen months. Are we now seeing hope on the horizon as certain public guidelines are being relaxed? Do we feel that we are moving forward?

We need patience with ourselves and others. All through our lives God gives us the patience we need if we ask, in all sorts of situations.....

The parent who waits patiently for the small child to complete a task in which the parent could have done in seconds (e.g., tying of the shoelaces). The teacher who explains the mathematical formula for the umpteenth time and the father who explains it again during homework! The health visitor who listens to the same complaints each visit. The grandchild who sorts out my computer error yet again. All of our Christian family waiting patiently for “the best is yet to come”.

Patience is the restraint which keeps us all grounded in love towards others, one of the fruits of the Spirit. We learn from Romans 15 verses 4&5 “Now may the God of patience and comfort for all whom I love grant you to be like minded towards one another, according to Christ Jesus”

One of my favourite poets Helen Steiner Rice has a poem entitled “Time is a Gift from God” in which the last four lines say;

But teach us to take time for praying, and to find time for listening to You,

So each day is spent well and wisely, doing what you most want us to do.

So I pray for all who are reading this, what I pray for (patiently every day) for all whom I know, “that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” Romans 15 v6.

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