WHAT Our WORLD NEEDS NOW

A Long Fuse

Whether it's the reckless driver on the road, the 100th question from your toddler, or the nagging relative every holiday, our patience can easily be stretched thin. We know patience is a good thing, but it seems hard to summon patience in the moment or sustain it over time. So this question hangs heavy: How can we become more patient people? Rich challenges us to consider that patience is less about *what* we do and more about *who* we look to as our source of love, endurance, and strength.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where, when, or with whom do you tend to have a short fuse?
2. What are words you would use to describe a patient person?
3. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:14–15**. What are ways we can show patience, or *bear up with*, those who are challenging to us or are struggling?
4. When we use the phrase "I just lost my patience," it implies that we started with some measure of patience that has run out. Rich explained that the key to cultivating more patience is becoming more aware of how Jesus is patient with us. What can you do to become more actively aware of Jesus's patience with you?
5. Read **1 Timothy 1:13–16.** How does Paul serve as an example for us as we seek to cultivate more patience?
6. What do you stand to gain when you cultivate patience? What might your community and family gain when you cultivate patience?

Moving Forward:

Take this prayer and use it to cultivate a heart and mind where patience can grow:

God, your mercy is new every morning. Your love for me, seen through the sacrifice of Jesus, covers all my sin and enables me to reflect you. Grow my awareness of how much you love me. And as I remember your love for me, help me show your love through a supernatural patience for everyone I encounter.

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