

SWEET SUMMER – LIFE FORMED BY THE SPIRIT

“PATIENCE”

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INTRODUCTION

- Galatians was the Apostle Paul’s earliest letter.
- Fruit of the Spirit... “such things have no law.”
- John 15:4, “No branch can bear fruit by itself.”

I. PATIENCE’S VALUE

- Patience is the opposite of a short temper.
- “Love is patient, love is kind, love does not boast...” 1 Corinthians 13:4
- We want short cuts to spiritual fruit.
- Psalms 37:6-7, “He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.”

II. WORTH THE WAIT

- Galatians 5:22-23
 - Love, Joy, Peace: Attitude towards God
 - Patience, Kindness, Goodness: Action Towards God
 - Faithfulness, Gentleness. Self control: Ability of personal control

- Macrothumis: Long temper; not a short fuse.
- Anger needs a host to grow:
 - Frustration
 - Hurt
 - Fear

III. TRUST GOD’S TIMING

- Focus on progress, not perfection.
- James 5:7-11, “Be patient until the Lord comes.”
 - Patience is the working of maturity.
 - Patience is hope in Christ’s return.
 - Patience has deliberate behaviors.
- There is a difference between patiently waiting and simply passing time.

IV. THE BIGGER PICTURE

- 2 Peter 3:8-9
- Remember God is always on time.
- The Psalmist declared it... Peter believed it!
- God’s motivation is always love.
- God’s delays are not necessarily God’s denial.
- We feel we are the ones waiting for God. But God is the one waiting for us.