



Growth Group Questions
May 10, 2026
“Keep Going (Patience)”

CONTEXT

We learn many details about the condition of the Apostle Paul and why he was writing the second letter to Timothy. Paul writes this letter with the feeling that his time on earth is coming to an end. His trial is happening during this time and it is not looking like there will be a good outcome. He wants to hand off his ministry to Timothy. Paul writes this letter from a cold Roman prison cell in the face of persecution from Emperor Nero who is using Christians as scapegoats following the Great Fire of Rome which occurred in AD 64.

The Apostle Paul tells of the fear of persecution which has prevented many of Paul’s associates to stay clear of Rome. Only Luke remains with Paul while Onesimus continues to show bravery and loyalty in these difficult times. This is where the letter to Timothy picks up when Paul is asking for Timothy to leave Ephesus and join him in Rome to formally pass on the vision of planting churches.

The third chapter of Second Timothy focuses on the Scriptures and that when you follow them, you will experience the benefits. This is sharply contrasted with the current teachers found in Ephesus. Paul is asking Timothy to make sure there is strong teaching there before he leaves them to journey to Rome to meet with Paul.

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:22-26

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.



2 Timothy 3:10-4:12

¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4 ¹ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

⁹ Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰ for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. ¹² I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[a]?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.



QUESTIONS

1. How do you define patience as a fruit of the Holy Spirit?
2. Pastor Dave's sermon title about patience is "Keep Going" which intimates that patience is active rather than passive. What is the difference between passive endurance and active, faith-based patience?
3. What do you see as the relationship between patience and the other fruit of the Holy Spirit?
4. What are the situations or circumstances that tend to trigger your impatience?
5. What can we do to help cultivate patience in our lives?
6. Pastor Dave said that there are really two types of "longsuffering" – the longsuffering God shows with us and the longsuffering we are called upon to have with each other. How can we mirror God's longsuffering with us in our relationships with others?
7. In Timothy 4:16, the Apostle Paul tells us that God has given us the Scriptures to prepare us for life. How does reading and studying God's Word help you to be prepared for the difficult times in your life that call for patience?
8. What Bible verse(s) have you found to be helpful in cultivating the kind of patience we are called upon to have as Christ's followers?

