

Sub Topic: The Egocentric Predicament

Mark 7:18-23 KJV

“And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; 19] Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? 20] And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. 21] For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22] Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23] All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”

PowerPoint: The change that activates the cultivation of the fruit of the Spirit begins from within.

Romans 7: 22-25

“For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23] But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24] O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25] I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin”.

Galatians 5:18 – 20 KJV

“But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. 19] Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these;

- *Adultery*
- *Fornication*
- *Uncleanness = Impure motives*
- *Lasciviousness = unbridled lust. Shamelessness*

20] Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred,

- *Variance = quarrels, debates*
- *Emulations= an envious and contentious rivalry, jealousy*
- *Wrath*
- *Strife*
- *Seditious = dissension, division*

PowerPoint: No one can claim to be directed by the Spirit of God to divide Gods people.

❖ Heresies = a body of persons following their own tenets (sect or party)

1. Sadducees
2. Pharisees
3. Essenes

Galatians 5:18 – 20 KJV

“Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24] And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25] If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit”.

PowerPoint: The Fruit of the Spirit is produced by the Spirit, not by the Christian.

1 Corinthians 10:13 KJV

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 KJV

“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18] But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord”.

Why Patience Is So Difficult

It concerns the "Egocentric Predicament" which is:

PowerPoint: The natural human condition of being immediately aware only of one's own thoughts and feelings.

Matthew 20:16 KJV

“So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen”.

Romans 12:10 KJV

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;”

Colossians 3:12-13 KJV

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13] Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye”.

Why is patience toward God difficult?

Isaiah 55:8-9 KJV

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. 9] For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts”.

Further reasons that compound the difficulty of waiting upon God.

1. Patience toward God requires faith, and to exercise faith is to surrender full control of one's life.
PowerPoint: To lack faith is to give in to one's desire for control.
2. Patience with God is a challenge, too, because sometimes it's not always clear whether it is God we're waiting for or if it's actually God waiting for us.
PowerPoint: Sometimes God gives a general directive without specific steps because he wants to test your faith and obedience.

Genesis 12:1 KJV

“Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee”:

PowerPoint: When dealing with God don't be as concerned about where you're going as you are WHEN YOU'RE LEAVING.

How Patience Is Developed

James 1:2-4

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3] Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4] But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing”.

Patience must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything

PowerPoint: “Prosperity unbruised cannot endure a single blow, but a man who has been in constant conflict with adversity acquires skin calloused by suffering; he yields to no evil and even if he stumbles carries the fight on upon his knees”.

Recalling the varieties of patience noted earlier lends a better understanding of the patience of Jesus.

1. Jesus endured nuisance and annoyance from his disciples.
2. Jesus withstood boredom.
3. Jesus exhibited patience through severe affliction.

1 Peter 1:13-15 KJV

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14] As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15] But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;”