

Transformed
From Frustration to Patience

Reflect

- 1) Recall a time when you showed incredible patience.
- 2) Recall a time when you demonstrated reckless impatience and frustration.
- 3) What is the root cause of frustration and impatience in you?

Read Your Bible

2 Peter 3:8-9

Proverbs 14:29 & 15:18

Psalms 40

Matthew 18:23-35

Apply God's Word to Your Life

- 1) Based on 2 Peter, why is the Lord "slow" as we perceive it?
- 2) What does 2 Peter teach you about the character and heart of God for you and all people?
- 3) Where have you seen the truth of Proverbs played out in your own life?
- 4) In Psalm 40, patience and trust go hand-in-hand. What does that say about impatience?
- 5) What does waiting patiently lead to in the Psalm? What does it lead to in your life?
- 6) In Matthew, the debtor begs for the master to be patient. What does this tell us about the nature and heart of God?
- 7) Jesus' parable teaches us to live differently and be transformed. How ought we treat our neighbors?

Among the top ten worst inventions of the twentieth century was the microwave oven. While the microwave oven promised deliciously cooked meals in a fraction of the time, it did not deliver. Yes, it can melt butter fast, and be utilized as a bread box, but that's about all they do well. The impatience of the microwave gave us stale tasting popcorn, soggy leftovers, half-frozen hot pockets, and let's not get started on the smell of microwaved fish. Impatience not only leads to bad food, but poor relationships with God and people. Patience is how God deals with you and me. God is patient because He wants us to find forgiveness and life in Him. Our patience in God's promise is our response to His love. We know that God has overcome the world through Jesus, and in our struggles our patience shows our trust in this promise. Our growing patience with other people demonstrates our belief in what Jesus has done and shows the even greater patience and love of God to the world.

Pray

Father in heaven, thank You for showing Your patience to the world and to me. I ever rejoice in Your forgiveness and pray that I can forgive others as You have forgiven me. Send Your Spirit so that in all things I may trust You and be a witness to Your never-failing love. In Jesus' name. Amen.