**Hi friends, today’s prayer theme is for Patience.**

*Patience is* the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, problems, challenges, or even suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious.

*I suspect that by now, we all need more patience. Patience with ourselves, patience with others, and even patience with God. Sometimes it seems like God is moving too slow. So, patience is important to pray for especially, if we find ourselves in closer quarters than we have been accustomed during this coronavirus pandemic. Maybe you are waiting for results yourself, or for a loved one to pull through, or that the four walls seem to be closing in on you and you are feeling stir crazy. I don’t know about you, but I needed more patience before all of this happened. I was thinking that just the other morning I went to iron my clothes and realized my son left for work and locked it away in his room. I had to pray for patience to get a hold of myself. God helped me realized that it was not the end of the world. All would be well. I simply found something that didn’t need an iron. Having patience is a gift that is useful anytime. So, this morning we are going to ask God to grant us the gift of patience as we wait for things to get better. So, prayer for patience not only helps us with our waiting, but it deepens our trust that God is in charge and not us. So, if God is in charge, we can trust that we are not alone.*

*You may want to light a candle. I have chosen three scriptures to guide us in our prayer this morning.*

**The first is:**

[**1 Corinthians 13:4-5**](https://dailyverses.net/1-corinthians/13/4-5)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

**The second is**

[**Ephesians 4:2**](https://dailyverses.net/ephesians/4/2)

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

**The third is:**

[**Psalm 5:3**](https://dailyverses.net/psalms/5/3)

In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait expectantly.

*What I love about these passages is that they remind us that God is aware that there are moments in our lives, where we need more than our own resources to wait and endure to get through the day. We have so many examples of those who God gave patience to wait too. People like Mary, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha, The blind man at the pool of Bethesda and so many others. Even Jesus had to wait! So, we know we need patience to wait for God to show up for us and for our world. To help us not to get annoyed and to restrain our anxiety. You need it, I need it, we need it! All of God’s children need patience, so thank you for joining me this morning as we pray for patience.*

**So, if you have joined me via live stream, I invite you to repeat this prayer with me or you can simply bow your head and let it wash over you, whatever works for you.**

**Prayer:**

*God we come to you again this morning as you invited us to “come boldly and with confidence before your throne of grace, drawing near to it, that we may receive mercy and find grace and help in the time of need and in the time of trouble. “*

*So today in these troubled times, we are asking you for patience!*

*Just as you gave Elizabeth and Zachariah the patience to wait for John to be born before he could get his voice back. Just as you gave Mary patience to wait to conceive Jesus as the angel told her she would, and John the Baptist the wait for the promise of Jesus to come after him, we need patience too.*

*In Colossians 3: 12 through Paul you said,*

**Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.**

We have clothed ourselves God in as much patience as we have, but now we need your help. We need more!

Give us that patience that comes with your love. As you reminded us that love is patient. As your love grows in us, let your patience grow in us so that we can hold each other in the ways that uphold our well- being for one another.

Help us to refrain from becoming annoyed, irritated, impatient, critical, and anxious.

Help us to have that even now patience that Martha showed Jesus when he was late showing up for her sick brother Lazarus. You turned her impatience into faith as she said to Jesus, even now God will give you whatever you ask. As she patiently waited on you to work through Jesus, you gave Lazarus back his life. We know you will give us back a semblance of our life too.

 So, help us to wait patiently. While we do, help us to do as you said in Ephesians 4:2 you said, **“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”**

We need your patience to do that! There is no greater time when we need to be humble, gentle, and patient bearing with one another in love than in times like these God.

The psalmist in 27:14 reminds us, “to **wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart and simply wait for you Lord.”** So, give us the patience to wait. Help us deal with the moments where we want to fret. Help us to simply let your spirit of patience saturate us and bring us back to a place of calm and trust. I love the proverb 16:32 that says,

**“Better a patient person than a warrior,
one with self-control than one who takes a city. “**

So,tame the warrior in us! Make us more patient and self-controlled during these times. For you remind us in the gift of patience that whoever has patience has great understanding. So, increase our understanding and restrain our ability to be quick tempered which is so easy to do. Paul encouraged the community in Rome in Romans 12:12 as they were struggling to be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.

That is what we are doing this morning as we seek your help for that patience. We know that Jesus died on the cross and waited patiently for the promise of resurrection, of new life. We know that Jacob wrestled with the angel and patiently stayed in the fight until he received a blessing. He walked away with a limp and a new name.

Help us to stay the course too knowing that we too will get through this.

James the apostle in his letter encouraged his community to be patient until Your coming. He asked them to, **“see how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient for it until it receives the early and late rain.”**Lord it’s hard to wait for something new and different when we don’t know what coming or what it’s going to look like. But you, know what it’s going to look like. So, help us to be like the farmer, give us your patience, and your strength. Strengthen our hearts. As you do, let that patience be bigger than our grumbling against one another and our anxiety. Help us live instead in your love and trust you. For we know that you are the God who gives endurance and encouragement, that we might be more like Jesus who showed us how to be patient even as he was patient and is patient with us.

*So, this morning we thank you for renewing our patience, and deepening our endurance and trust. We thank you for filling us with supernatural patience, that we need to overcome the obstacles we face. We thank you for walking beside us, working through us, and carrying us when we need you too.*

*So, today we say goodbye to impatience and hello to gift of patience that you gave us that is holding us in this very moment. Whew! Thank you! In Jesus name we pray and ask this in the name of our loving God, the son, and the Holy Spirit!*

***Amen***

***Repeat after me:*** *I will not give in to impatience, grumbling, annoyance and anxiousness. God has given me patience to love, to endure, to trust, and to wait for better days that are ahead. So, it is in patience I am possessing my soul and giving my best to the world. That is where I will live today!*