

Day 5

Patience

Silence, stillness, and centering before God. (2 minutes)

Scripture *"For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."* Romans 8:24-25

Discussion Paul writes about waiting for Jesus' return. *"The creation waits with eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration...the creation itself will be liberated from the bondage of decay..."* (Rom. 8:19-21), *"...we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons..."* (Rom. 8:23). Paul continues with the passage above, that we hope for what we don't yet have and we wait patiently for Jesus's return for us. *"...having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of His glory"* (Eph. 1:13-14). *"...so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him"* (Heb. 9:28). It has often been stated that Christians live in a time of now and not yet. *"Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known"* (1 Cor. 13:12). So we wait patiently for our hope of Jesus' return. We ask Jesus what He wants us to do today and we listen to our Shepherd's voice. We read the Bible to be close to God and learn how He wants us to live. We follow Jesus today as we wait patiently for our hope of Jesus' return. We use the gifts Jesus has given us to build up the Church as we wait patiently for our hope of Jesus' return. We tell people about God's love for us, how Jesus gave us new life as we wait patiently for our hope of Jesus' return. We worship with brothers and sisters in Christ as we wait patiently for our hope of Jesus' return. We look for and take initiative to love our neighbor, to show mercy as we wait patiently for our hope of Jesus' return. We experience joy, challenge, crises, contentment, and grief, as we move through the seasons of this life and wait patiently for our hope of Jesus' return. We are blessed now. And we will be blessed more when our hope of Jesus' return is realized. *"But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear – hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen"* (Jude 20-25).

Application Waiting and patience are not the same thing. Waiting is a behavior, but patience is an attitude! When we consider the return of Christ, does it fill us with a quiet peace that allows us to patiently endure our day to day lives and the challenges they bring? Take time today to consider Christ's return and ask God to make it a source of patience in your life as you seek to live for Him while we all patiently wait for the day our faith becomes sight.

Prayer Praise You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Praise You! Praise You! Praise You! Amen.

Silence (2 minutes) Talk to God about what you are learning. What are your fears? Where are your hangups? Pray for direction.

Scripture memory for the week: *"My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires."* James 1:19-20