

SPIRITUAL GROWTH REVIEW

The Fruit of the Spirit Is...



THE SECRETS OF BEING FRUITFUL

Memory Verse for this 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

1. When do you find it most difficult to be patient?
2. Take a good look at **Habakkuk 1:1-4** and **3:17-19**. What is a good definition of “forbearance” or patience? Is this about remaining calm in busy traffic or is there more to it?
3. How is Habakkuk using deer as an analogy for our faith in verse 19? What is God enabling us to do?
4. So, why didn’t God answer Habakkuk’s prayers? Consider **Isaiah 55:8-11**.
5. If God didn’t answer the prayers of His prophet Habakkuk or respond to the petition of Job, why should we expect that He will answer our prayers?
6. Compare **Habakkuk 1:2** with **Psalm 13:1-2**. Have you ever prayed a sincere prayer to God, asking Him to intervene, only to be responded with silence? How did this impact your faith?

7. How should we respond when God doesn't answer our prayers? Does that mean that the answer is no or that God really isn't concerned about our needs?

8. Review **Habakkuk 1:13**. "The silence of God speaks loudly." What does this mean and what does it look like in our everyday lives?

9. Why would God choose Babylon, an evil nation that did not fear God, to punish the nation of Israel? Isn't He allowing evil to "win"?

10. How does God allow this still today? How does evil prevail and what is God's purpose in allowing it to continue? Consider **Psalm 94:1-3** (and following verses as time permits).

11. Read **Isaiah 55:8**. How does this truth about God affect you? Does this mean that we are incapable of knowing the heart of the Father? (You may also wish to consider **1 Corinthians 13:8-12**.)

12. Read **Psalm 27:13-14**. What is the key to forbearance while wait upon the Lord to respond?

13. Read **Romans 12:12**. What are some helpful tips for growing in the area of patience? How do we take steps in the direction of spiritual growth?

14. Why is patience so hard for some of us? What is so hard about being content to wait on God's timing?

For this week: It is hard to be patient when we are in a hurry. Unfortunately, many of us live hurried lives. Consider how you can slow down enough to recognize that the world does not revolve around you! Be patient and wait on God's timing. He hasn't forgotten you.