

Week 3.

- What is patience? Are you a 'patient' person?
- Read James 5:7-10
- Think of as many words as you can to describe God's patience towards us.
- How does God 'wait patiently' for us?
- Why do you think *he does* wait patiently?

'Patience is a sign of strength, firmness, stability and conviction.... It is above all the attitude that reveals a deep love for God and others'

[Enzo Bianchi : Words of Spirituality : SPCK : 2012]

- Read the first block of text opposite. Can you see how Bianchi's words apply?
- How can 'waiting patiently' be really tough for us?
- What might be the 'enemy' of patience?
- How does patience more specifically apply to 'Advent Expectations'?
- How can we encourage one another to look forward to Christ's return?
- How can we learn to be patient in the context of our lives together?
- If you have access to it : listen to the Taize Chant 'Wait For The Lord, Whose Day Is Near' (see Ref. Opposite) - then close in prayer
- Pray for patience to endure all that has to come in our lives before the return of Christ or our meeting with him at death if sooner.



Advent Expectations : Waiting Patiently

There are two words in the NT that have a bearing on our understanding of patience.

The first translates as 'endurance' and relates to our bearing with one another - as James points out in v9, the second refers to persevering / enduring hardship patiently until Christ returns.

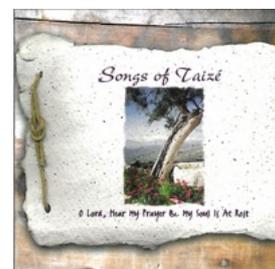
[My paraphrase from IVP Dictionary of Later NT & its Developments via Logos]

Patience, like love, helps us manage ourselves when pressured, provoked, or pained...'

[The Spiritual Formation NRSV Bible : Harper Collins: 2005]

Songs of Taizé - O Lord, Hear My Prayer & My Soul Is At Rest (Volume One) by Taizé Community Choir Track 17:

<https://music.apple.com/gb/album/songs-taiz%C3%A9-o-lord-hear-my-prayer-my-soul-is-at-rest/558488287>



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