

5 2 W E E K S  
O F G R O W T H

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*Give it a Year*  
*Week 15*



# WEEK 15

1 Corinthians 13: 4

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“Love is patient,  
love is kind.  
It does not envy,  
it does not boast,  
it is not proud.”

Have you ever prayed for patience, and it felt like God actually sent you people to test your patience all daylong? Yeah, me too. Have you ever woken up on the wrong side of the bed and felt this unusual amount of anger or frustration for no good reason? Yeah, me too. Just like love, patience and kindness are action words. They are choices that we need to make all day long. And as we continue in our “love” series and breaking down 1 Corinthians 13, our scripture this week starts to tell us what love is and isn’t.

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”

Patience and kindness are 2 of the fruits of the Spirit. These “fruits” are gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit for us to live a life according to the character of God. Once we become Christians, we all are given these “gifts” by the Holy Spirit. However, we all don’t automatically become loving, patient, kind and self-controlled people overnight.

Oh, how I wish we could though.

These are characteristics that have to begin to take root in us. Much like growing fruit needs roots deep in the earth to be healthy, our roots have to grow deep into the foundation of God to produce these ripe fruits (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control). We cannot simply use will-power to be more patient or kind or gentle people. We have to partner with God through the Holy Spirit so He can help us to grow these fruits by growing closer to Him. The closer you get to Jesus the more you will become like Him and then you will be able to see these same characteristics in you.

So maybe instead of praying for patience or praying that you won't "go off" on the people around you...maybe our prayers need to change to, "God make me more like you".

## READ:

Galatians 5:22-23

1 John 4:7-12

Mark 12: 28-31

1 Corinthians 13

## REFLECT:

- How often do you tell the people in your life that you love them?
- Think about the people that you love (your spouse, significant other, children, parents, siblings, etc.), are you kind and patient with them?
- As we continue to study love, are you feeling like you have been using the word “love” all wrong in your life?
- This week, how can you tap into the Holy Spirit and grow to become more kind and patient? How can you become a more loving person? How can you be more like Jesus this week?

## PRAYER:

Father God, I thank You for loving me. I thank You for Your kindness and patience with me each and every day. I'm so undeserving and I'm so grateful. Lord, help change me from the inside to be more like You. Help me to see others the way that You see them. Help me to make choices based on love and not based on my feelings. Show me how to keep turning to You and craving to be more like You daily. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.