

# Discussion Guide



Summer 2010 Sermon Series  
<http://www.rbcpc.org/spiritual-apps/>

## “Transformed by Patience”

Week # 7, August 21/22, 2010

1. **Scriptures:** James 5:7-8, Mark 8:14-21, *free* mobile Bible apps available:
  - iphone: visit App Store, ibible or Bible: Life Church YouVersion
  - blackberry/droid: visit App World, Bible: Life Church YouVersion

2. **Sermon:** “Transformed by Patience” Pastor Bruce Humphrey,  
<http://www.rbcpc.org/about-us/sermons/>

Reading Resource: [www.amazon.com/Life-Youve-Always-Wanted-Disciplines/](http://www.amazon.com/Life-Youve-Always-Wanted-Disciplines/)  
Practicing the Spiritual Apps: [www.rbcpc.org/small-groups/](http://www.rbcpc.org/small-groups/)

3. **Study resources**
  - Primary: John Ortberg, *The Life You’ve Always Wanted*, Chapter 5, “An Unhurried Life.”
  - Secondary: Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*, pg. 110-125.
4. **Study Guide** <http://www.rbcpc.org/spiritual-apps/>
5. **Blog** <http://spiritualapps.blogspot.com/>

Next week:

Aug 28/29: **Sermon:** “Transformed by Forgiveness”

**Study:** *The Life You’ve Always Wanted*, Ch. 8 (linked to Confession)  
*Celebration of Discipline*, pg. 146-157.

## ***“Transformed by Patience”***

### **Scripture References**

Read and reflect on the following scriptures. What do they say to you about the practice of *patience*?

#### **James 5:7-8**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.  
<sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

*Notes:*

#### **Mark 8:14-21**

Now the disciples had forgotten to bring any bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. <sup>15</sup> And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out-- beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod." <sup>16</sup> They said to one another, "It is because we have no bread." <sup>17</sup> And becoming aware of it, Jesus said to them, "Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? <sup>18</sup> Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember? <sup>19</sup> When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?" They said to him, "Twelve." <sup>20</sup> "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?" And they said to him, "Seven." <sup>21</sup> Then he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

*Notes:*

## **“Transformed by Patience”**

### **Discussion Guide**

#### **Sermon**

Key Words: ***Patience – Miracle – Slowing – Habits – Inheritance***

1. ***“We are reviewing and learning various ways that we can grow into the person we’ve always wanted to be. We want to be loving, joyful, peaceful, patient. But we too often find ourselves rushing, speaking harshly, hurting those we love.” Pastor Bruce Humphrey***  
What does impatience do to relationships?
2. How would practicing *patience* with others demonstrate love?
3. Read Exodus 23:29-30. God seems to switch pretty quickly from providing instant miracles to help the Israelites, to a very slow process of conquering the Promised Land. What do you think God was trying to teach the Israelites? What does this lesson about *patience* show us about God’s love?
4. When you think of the word *inheritance*, what comes to mind? What is the inheritance that Jesus wants for us?

#### **Scripture**

5. Read the James 5:7-8 scripture. Discuss the inherent need for *patience* in the life of a farmer.
6. Immediately after the command to be patient, James commands us to strengthen our hearts. What is the connection between the two? Why is this important for us to achieve “for the coming of the Lord?”
7. Read the Mark 8:14-21 scripture. How does Jesus demonstrate *patience* with the apostles?
8. What does this say to you about your *patience* with others?
9. Why do you think Mark chose this particular conversation to demonstrate *patience*?

#### **Study Resource**

10. What is the difference between being busy and being hurried?
11. How did the way Jesus listened to others model the discipline of *patience*? Can you think of a time when He modeled *impatience*?
12. Why do you think we are so resistant to practicing *patience* in our culture?
13. ***“The most serious sign of hurry sickness is a diminished capacity to love.” pg. 81.*** What does this tell you about how important *patience* is to your relationships?

## ***“Transformed by Patience”***

### **Life Applications SPIRITUAL APP: Patience**

*Not all spiritual apps/disciplines will work for everyone all the time. If this one does not seem to work for you now, don't set it aside. Read through it and save it for the day when Jesus calls upon your patience!*

#### **Personal:**

Make a deliberate attempt to cultivate *patience* in your own behavior. For one week, make a concerted effort to slow down. The following are some suggestions.

- Drive in the slow lane on the freeway
- Declare a “fast” from honking
- Chew 15 times before each swallow of food
- Get in the longest line at the grocery store
- Let one person go ahead of you in line
- Listen to your spouse/child's story without a single interruption
- Refrain from multi-tasking

Keep a journal of your results. At the end of the week, ask yourself this question: *“Did this exercise in patience help bring me closer to the life I've always wanted?”*

#### **Small Group:**

*It would be helpful if everyone had a Bible for this section.*

If we do not want hurry to rule our lives, we need to take steps to slow down. When we feel hurried and pressured, what does the Bible tell us to do?

- 1 Peter 5:7
- Philippians 4:6

The following Scripture passages provide perspective and instruction on how to “order” our hearts. What do they reveal as beneficial or harmful to us?

- Matthew 16:26
- 1 Timothy 6:6-7
- Philippians 3:18-21

After reading the above passages together, go around the room and share one act of *patience* you could do to show the love of Jesus to others.

#### **Pray:**

Personal: Recognize your own limitations and ask for Jesus' help as you practice *patience* with others.

Group: Pray for *patience* with each other in the group – that each individual effort would make the group stronger.

Kingdom: Pray for lasting transformation in the hearts of the RBCPC teams returning from summer missions.