**The Attributes of God: Week 8, patient & faithful**

**When we say that God is patient we mean:**

1. **His divine ability to *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* himself for periods of time in *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* to human free will and the course of history.** 
   1. In In heaven, God’s will is being done instantly, perfectly, effectively. On earth, God’s will is being ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** at every turn by the devil and humanity.
   2. God may desire for certain things to occur sooner or more efficiently but human freedom delays or otherwise obstructs for periods of time.
   3. We know that God’s will cannot be ultimately thwarted or stopped (Job 42:4)…but it can be delayed or accomplished in less than ideal situations because of human ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***.
   4. When God does not intervene and *‘force His will’* and allows human freedom to reign as it were in a certain aspect… He is being patient. (See Matt 23:37, Num 13:1 & 31, Acts 13:18)
   5. In 2 Peter 3:9 It appears that God would like to wrap things up in human history sooner than later.
   6. But God is patiently delaying the fulfillment of all time, in order that more might ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** and be saved.
2. **His divine ability to *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* the urge to immediately punish human *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.** 
   1. God’s perfect justice & wrath demands for sin to be punished. And it would be acceptable for God to punish all sin & rebellion instantly or immediately.
   2. It is God’s patience and forbearance that allows Him to withhold His judgment & wrath against sin & sinners. (See Neh 9:16-17, Ps 78:38)
3. **His divine ability to *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* graciously to periods of sinful *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* and lack of growth in the life of the believer.** 
   1. God’s patience is also ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** displayed when He deals gently with a struggling or disobedient believer.
   2. We are all not where we should be or ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** be in our walk with the Lord…We all ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** to fall short of the glory of God. We each fail to live up to the measure we have already attained (Phil 3:16).
   3. God’s patience is how He graciously continues to work with us and uses us in spite of our failures in the ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** life. (Heb 5:12, Ps 103:8-14)

**When we say that God is faithful we mean:**

1. **He is committed to His *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.**
   1. A greatly overlooked aspect of the faithfulness of God is that He is utterly committed to Himself.
   2. God’s faithfulness requires Him, to act consistently or faithfully to His own character and nature. For God to be faithful, means that He must act consistently/in line with His divine attributes.
   3. In His faithfulness to Himself, God is first & foremost committed to:

*His character, The Holy Trinity, His eternal plan, His spoken word*

***First;*** *God is committed to His character and He will faithfully act in line with His eternal, holy, divine nature. He will be who He has revealed Himself to be, then, now and forever.*

***Second;*** *God is committed to His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and in all His ways He will uphold their eternal worth, their matchless honor and praise etc.*

***Third;*** *God is committed to His eternal plan…To use Israel, to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ repentant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through the Gospel, to the return of Christ, to the fulfillment of all things according to His plan etc.*

***Fourth;*** *God is committed to His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ word, revealed in scripture. Very similar to being committed to His covenants, God is faithful to His spoken word. He will bring it to pass, He does not lie.*

1. **He is committed to His *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.**
   1. God’s faithfulness requires Him, to act consistently or faithfully to His covenants or promises made.
   2. For God to be faithful, means that He must act consistently/in line with the promises that He has made to others. (Deut 7:9, Ps 105:8)
2. **He is committed to His *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* .**
   1. God’s faithfulness means, and requires Him, to act consistently or faithfully to His church or His people (Israel etc) (Ps 91:4, Jer 32:40)

**How should God’s patience & faithfulness impact our lives?**

**#1** The patience of God should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me to be patient with others.

**#2** The patience of God should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me not to give God a reason to be patient with me because of my stubbornness.

**#3** The patience of God should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me of the fate of the lost, when God’s patience towards them will end.

**#4** The patience of God should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me to share the gospel, since His patience is rooted in their repentance.

**#5** The patience of God should make me \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the bigger things that are going on that God may be up to and waiting for me to be involved in.

**#6** The faithfulness of God should make me \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be faithful in consistent in my character and attitudes.

**#7** The faithfulness of God should make me \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be faithful in all my commitments and promises, as much as possible.

**#8** The faithfulness of God should make me \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for His covenant commitment to me, even when I sin and am unfaithful to Him.

**#9** The faithfulness of God should make me \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to

be faithful to others, even when, and especially when they fail me.

**#10** These attributes should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to me patiently wait for God to faithfully fulfill His plan, according to His will & His timing.