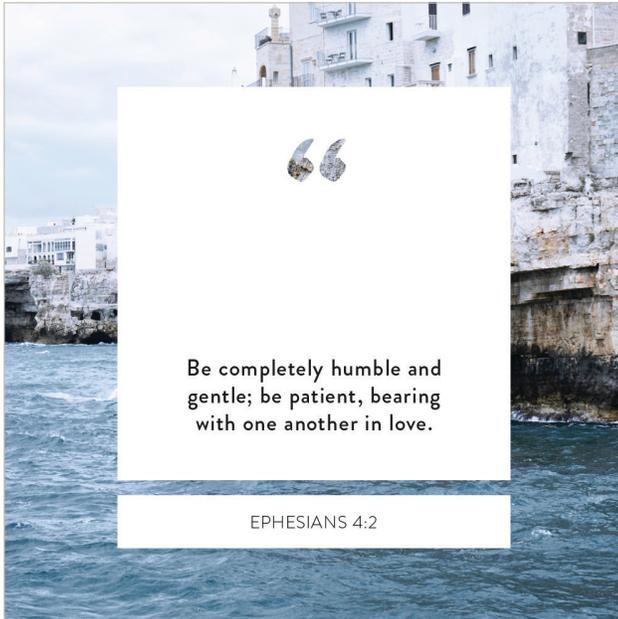


DAILY SCRIPTURE IMAGES & DEVOTIONS



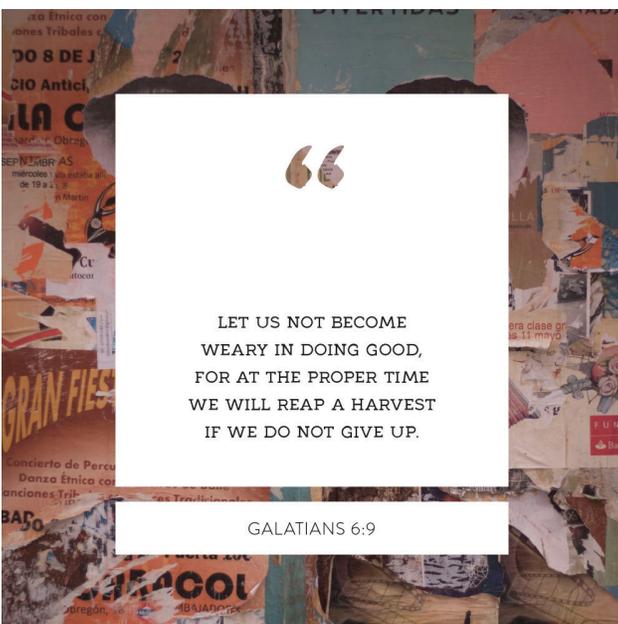
WEEK 1

DAY 1



Being patient is hard enough. But being patient and humble and gentle AND loving? It's almost too much to ask. Yet, patience, like most virtues, doesn't grow in isolation. The virtues of humility, gentleness, and love grow in accordance with patience. They are like the individual branches on the same tree. Are you struggling to be patient in a certain area in your life? Is there something that you don't think you can go another day without? What would it look like to turn your attention away from the thing you lack, and toward the things and relationships you do have? Maybe God is trying to teach you something about loving others through patience. Does that make it easier? No, of course not. But it does remind us that He is good, He has a plan, and He is at work.

DAY 2



Have you ever grown impatient from doing the right thing? Are you tired of always doing what's best but not receiving any credit or acknowledgment for it? It takes a special kind of patience to continue doing good without any immediate benefits. But this verse from Galatians contains a promise. It says that if we do not give up, we will reap a harvest. Our good works will never be in vain. Isn't that encouraging? Now, maybe that's just as frustrating as being told to be patient. "Don't give up" can seem like a cheerless platitude. But this encouragement isn't coming from just another person. It's not your friends and family telling you not to give up. It's God. We don't always operate on God's timeline, but we can rest in the fact that there will come a harvest at the proper time—God's proper time.

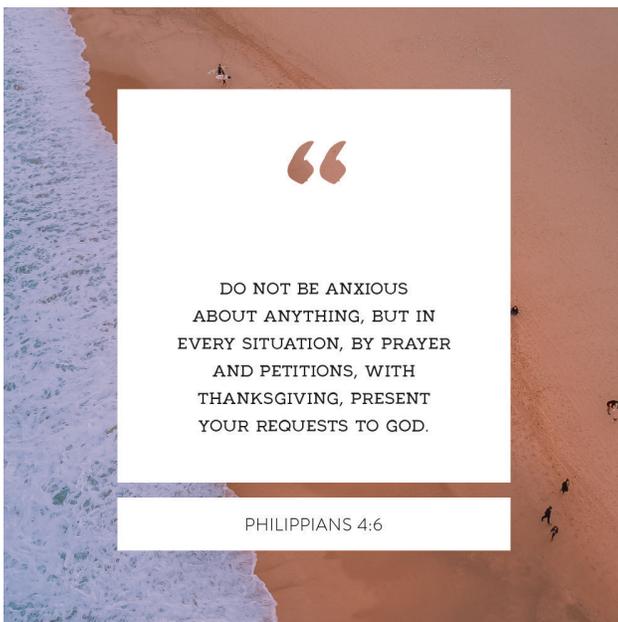
Be patient in doing good. God sees you and God acknowledges you.



DAY 3

How many times a day do you tell people you love them? Do you remind your spouse, your mom or dad, your kids that you love them? If not, now might be a great time to stop reading and do that! But what we want to see in this verse is that love implies something more than emotion. Saying “I love you” doesn’t mean “I have gushy romantic feelings for you.” Love is active. It means being patient. Love means being kind. Both of those virtues (as well as the others written in 1 Corinthians 13) are wrapped up inside love. So, when you tell your wife you love her, you’re telling her that you’re willing to be patient with her and kind to her. Sounds like a lot more than just a simple phrase, doesn’t it? But what makes this amazing is that it means God is patient with us and kind toward us. He promises us all of that, and every time He looks at us He is

reminded of His love—and patience and kindness—toward us.



DAY 4

What do you do when you feel anxious or impatient? What’s your typical response? Many people play out scenarios in their head over and over again of what might happen in their situation, or what they might want to happen. Some people sit and worry and bite their nails while trying not to think about the thing that gives them anxiety. But God offers us something better—prayer. Have you ever been worried about something, but then you talked to someone else about it and became less worried? That’s kind of what prayer is like—only instead of another person, you’re talking to the Creator of the world! Praying for whatever makes us anxious or impatient is one of the best responses we can have to uncertainty. It doesn’t automatically solve our problem, nor does it guarantee some kind of miracle. But prayer does guarantee an audience

with a kind, compassionate, and loving God who wants to hear from us. What is going on in your life right now that you can talk to God about? Pray and ask Him to listen to what worries you. And allow Him to give you peace and patience where both are lacking.



DAY 5



Have you ever watched a movie or read a book and really wanted to know the ending before the story was over? Some stories have this incredible power to make us wonder what’s going to happen, to make us desperate for some sort of resolution. Our lives aren’t that different. They’re stories that are still being written. But sometimes in the middle of the story, not knowing the ending is frustrating. With movies, we might guess how it’s going to end. With our lives, we have no idea! The good news is that God does. He’s the author of our lives, so He knows exactly what’s going to happen. The rest of this verse says that God has “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” That’s what God has in store for you! That’s the story He is writing with your life.

NOTES, PRAYERS, AND THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK. . . .

