**Irresistible Fruit: Patience**

1. Read Galatians 5:16-23. Why are the qualities in verses 22-23 called the “fruit” of the Spirit and not the “fruits” of the Spirit? What are the implications of seeing them as one unit?
2. Why is patience such an important quality? How is it desperately needed, especially when relating to other people?
3. How have you experienced patience from God? How does God want you to be patient with others?
4. Read James 5:7. How does a farmer have to be patient? How do we need this kind of patience when it comes to our prayers, our witnessing, our spiritual growth, our relationships with others, and the growth of our ministries?
5. The Greek word for patience literally means “slow anger.” Read James 1:19. How is going slow a great solution for anger?
6. When we disagree with those who are close to us, we quickly experience emotions, form conclusions, and make decisions that are unwise. Can you give some examples of this? How could slowing down this process help us to have better conversations? What is at stake in this?
7. God’s patience helps us bear all things, or put up with the faults and sins of others. How is this quality important in marriage, parenting, friendship and working relationships?
8. What can help us to be more patient? How does knowing it is an aspect of the fruit of the Spirit make a difference? Is it something we are supposed to do, or something God does through us, or both?
9. End with prayer for specific areas of your life where you would like to experience God’s patience.