

DESIRE THE GIFTS - LIVE THE FRUITS

PATIENCE



2 Corinthians 12:12 *The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience*

Colossians 1:11 *... may you be prepared to endure everything with patience*

2 Timothy 4:2 *Proclaim the message...with the utmost patience*

PATIENCE ... As we see from the above Scriptures, there were many opportunities for Jesus and His apostles to share the fruit of patience. Sometimes in discussions which could prompt differences of opinion, our instantaneous thoughts may need to sit for a while, unspoken. Consider this a time of blessing when the person speaking gets to continue their train of thought without interruption. It gives them a

sense of deserved respect and also a knowledge that they are truly being heard in a thoughtful way without intimidation. The listener has an advantage also by being able to soak in their words and by being able to truly listen to the whole story in context, discern, and pray about it. This will give the listener time to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance, then develop an honest and well-formed response. Paul stated to the Corinthians that true apostles perform with utmost patience. Yes, this patience pertains to actions as well as discussions. It may be very difficult to see a loved one, or anyone, act out in a fashion that is not in accord with God's commandments. But, here again, allow prayer to rule your responses. That does not mean sitting back and allowing bad things to happen; powerful prayer, a little gentle advice and patience will go a long way. Ask the Holy Spirit to fall on both yourself and others for wise responses, to make good decisions, and to use gentle Christian actions. **2 Peter 3:15** *"And consider the patience of our Lord as salvation"*. This reminds us of our ultimate role model for patience, Jesus, whose reason for patience in all things was our salvation. **HOLY SPIRIT COME!**

INTERCESSORY PRAYER TO ST. MONICA THE FRUIT OF PATIENCE:

St. Monica, please keep me in your faithful prayers to Our Lord Jesus as I attempt to share the fruit of patience according to the will of Our Father. May the Holy Spirit assist me as I try to emulate you in the same way that you trusted in Our Lord's divine intervention for your beloved son, St. Augustine, whose conversion inspires so many of us. I trust God to have the same patience with me, change my heart O God. AMEN

