

Peace through Patience

“Peace is not the absence of conflict; it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.”
Ronald Reagan

THE FORWARD GAZE OF PATIENCE

The coming of the Lord inspires patience

Farmers work hard, wait, and trust God.

THE GRACEFUL GAZE OF PATIENCE

Grumbling is not arguing¹
Grumbling is not grumpy
Grumbling is not complaining
Grumbling is contagious
Grumbling is passive-aggressive
Grumbling is habit-forming
Grumbling is circular and a repetitive waste of time

Grumbling against other Christians is dehumanizing, assumptive, and destructive to them and us.

God’s attitude toward personal grumblers

THE ENDURING GAZE OF PATIENCE

As a general rule ...

Patience involves people

Endurance involves circumstance

THE CALMING GAZE OF PATIENCE

Impatient people under fire want to prove their sincerity.

Impatient people under fire want to make deals with God.

Impatient people under fire want to prove their passion.

¹ <http://www.newyorker.com/culture/cultural-comment/notes-grumbling>

Some Things to Think About
For the week of June 14, 2015

Have you ever been the farmer waiting for the resolution of an unjust situation or a hard trial? How would concentrating on the Lord's return help get you through it?

Read Numbers 14:26-38. God sent 12 spies into the Promise Land; they brought back a report. Pay special attention to verses 36-38. What catastrophic actions did the spies do that devastated Israel?

How is God's judgment seen even after they "turned around"? (See verses 39-40)

What effect do you think grumbling parents have on their children both in the short term and in the long term?

What do you think happens when you spend too much time with a grumbler?

People in pain. The pain can make us or break us. It all depends on if we see God in it or if we see only the pain.