**DEVELOP A PATIENT HEART**

**Don't Let the Grinch Steal Christmas - Part 3**

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**December 17, 2017**

**Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)**   
Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

**Galatians 5:22 (NLT)**   
But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

PATIENT HEART: **Trusting In God’s Timing**

**James 1:3 (MSG)**   
You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors.

**I NEED A PATIENT HEART...**

1. When I am **Growing In My Faith**

**James 1:4 (MSG)**   
So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

**Romans 5:3-4 (NCV)**   
We also have joy with our troubles, because we know that these troubles produce patience. And patience produces character, and character produces hope.

* My Response: ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­**Partner With God’s Timing**

**Ephesians 4:15 (MSG)**   
God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do.

2. When I am **Dealing With Difficult People**

**Proverbs 29:11 (NLT)**   
Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back.

**Matthew 5:44 (MSG)**   
I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer,

* My Response: **To See People Through God’s Eyes**

**1 John 4:11 (NLT)**   
Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

3. When I am **Experiencing A Loss**

**Romans 8:28 (NLT)**   
And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

* My Response: **Weep, Wait, and Connect (connect with others, don’t withdraw)**

**Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)**   
Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

4. When I am **Sharing My Faith**

**1 Timothy 1:16 (NLT)**   
But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.

* My Response: **Keep Sharing and Keep Praying**

**Galatians 6:9 (NLT)**   
So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.