

MY WEEK OF PATIENCE

The need to remain patient seemed to be front and center for me last week. It began on Tuesday while I was in Caledonia to watch my daughter play a high school basketball game. When we came out after the game, the front tire on our car was flat. The flat tire was not from a nail or screw but a result of it splitting.

Nadine and my daughter got a ride back to Brantford with one of her teammates while I called CAA for assistance. Once I got through, I was told it would be a 35 minute wait. After 35 minutes I received another call from CAA to say it would be a further half hour before assistance would arrive. The tow truck finally arrived and confirmed the tire was too damaged to drive on and because my vehicle came with no spare tire it would need to be towed. The driver then proceeded to tell me that he could not do it because his company did not cover tows to the Brantford area. CAA had to be called back to send a different tow truck to take my car to Brantford. I then had to wait an additional hour or more for the second tow truck to arrive. By the time I arrived back in Brantford and was dropped off at the garage by the tow truck operator it was three hours after I made that first call. When I shared this story with a few people they asked how I was able to remain so patient those three hours.

Staying patient that long was nothing compared to what came next. When I arrived home, I discovered that my TV provider was not working. I learned that the provider had been hacked and it would take time for it to get back up and going. A day passed and it was not back up. On Thursday I contacted the provider, and they told me to take my box in for an update. I did that and was told they hoped to have it up soon and to just remain patient. I stayed patient on Thursday and remained so on Friday. Come Saturday it was still not up and working and I was told once again to remain patient and that they were hoping to have it going by the end of the weekend. It is now Monday morning as I write this, and I am still waiting patiently for my TV provider to get things fixed.

It was far easier to remain patient for three hours waiting for a tow truck than it has been for nearly six days for my TV provider to fix the issues on their end. I have had to show a lot of patience this past week to say the least. I always try to display this attribute and often get thanked for doing so at places like Tim Hortons. The employees who thank me for being patient often comment how so

many customers get upset whenever they have to wait longer in line than they expected. My daughter has come to see this too in the retail establishment where she works. Sadly, we do not see a lot of patience on people's parts today, but it is an attribute that should be displayed by believers. Paul says this when he talks about the "Fruits of the Spirit" in **Galatians 5:22-23**:

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.

Paul shares in this portion of his letter that if we truly desire to have these qualities, it is important to allow the Holy Spirit to guide every aspect of our lives. Paul points out that if we live each day guided by the Holy Spirit then these attributes will be on display because the words of Christ will be on our mind, and the love of Christ will be influencing our actions and behaviours. Situations like I experienced last week that can test our patience are good indicators whether we are truly allowing our lives to be guided by the Holy Spirit. If we find ourselves losing patience in such situations let's remember to take a moment to reconnect with the Holy Spirit.

After the first tow truck left, I took a moment to pray which helped me greatly to stay calm and patient while I waited for the second one to arrive. Connecting with the Holy Spirit in these moments can make all the difference in remaining patient, which is good for us spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

Hopefully my TV provider is up and going again by Wednesday so that I can watch the Leaf's game. If not, I have learned a lot of patience as well by being a Leaf fan over the years.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean