

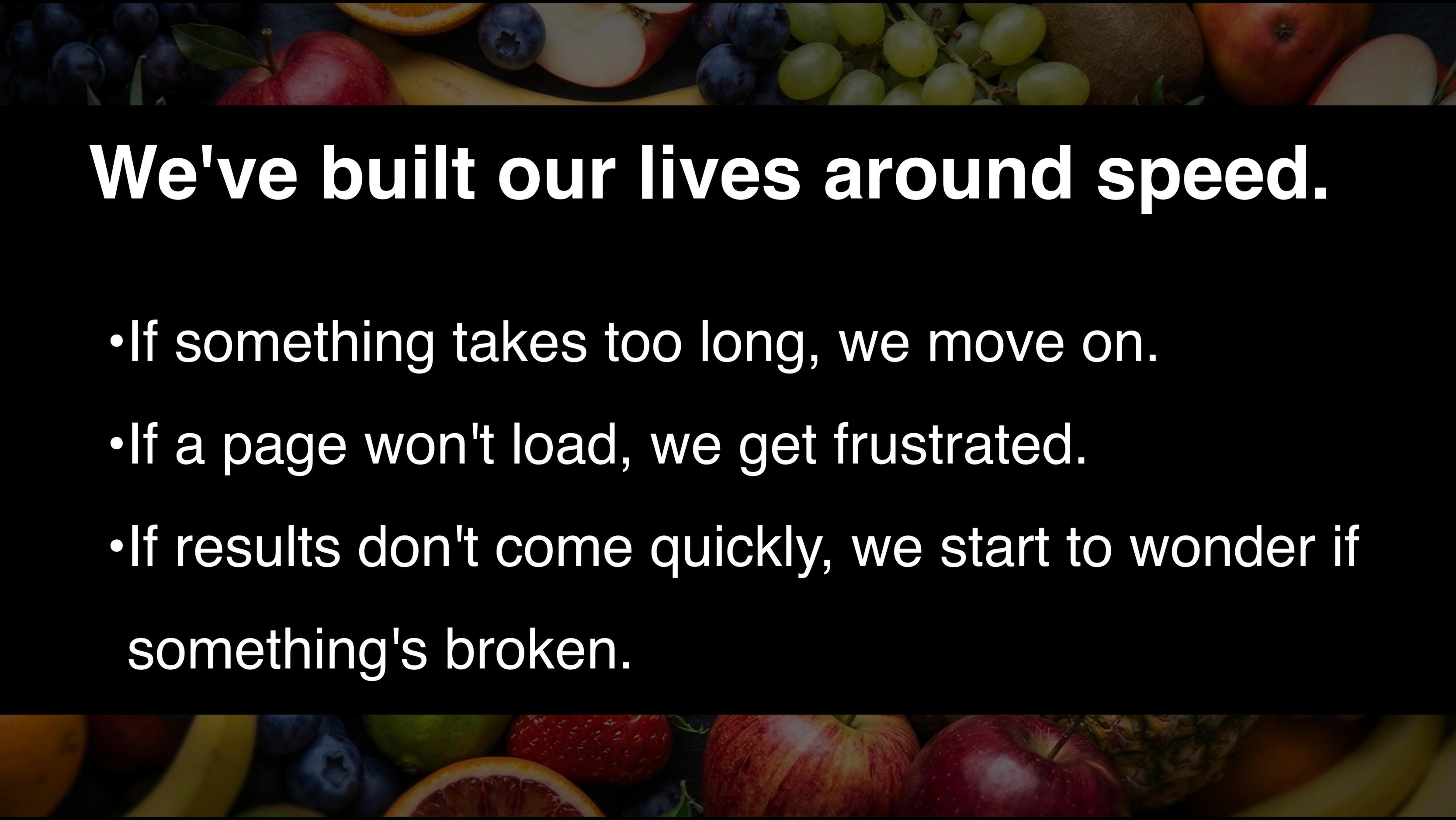


A Fruitful Life

PATIENCE

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience..."

— Galatians 5:22–23



We've built our lives around speed.

- If something takes too long, we move on.
- If a page won't load, we get frustrated.
- If results don't come quickly, we start to wonder if something's broken.

“*Makro*”

Means long, or big — like a macro lens on a camera zooms way out.

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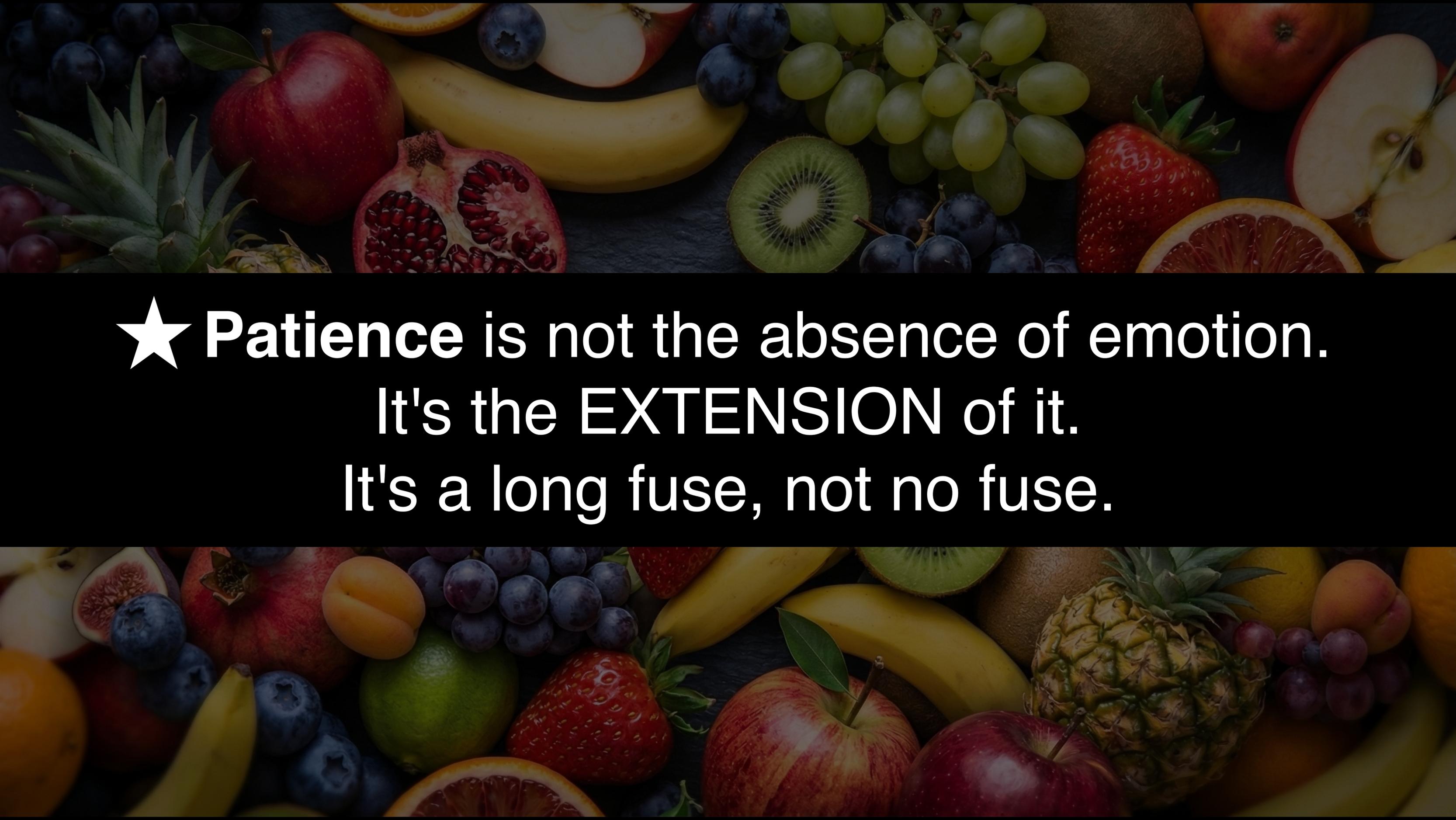
“*Thymos*”

Means soul, or passion, or literally the hot part of you — the part that flares up, that gets angry, that reacts.

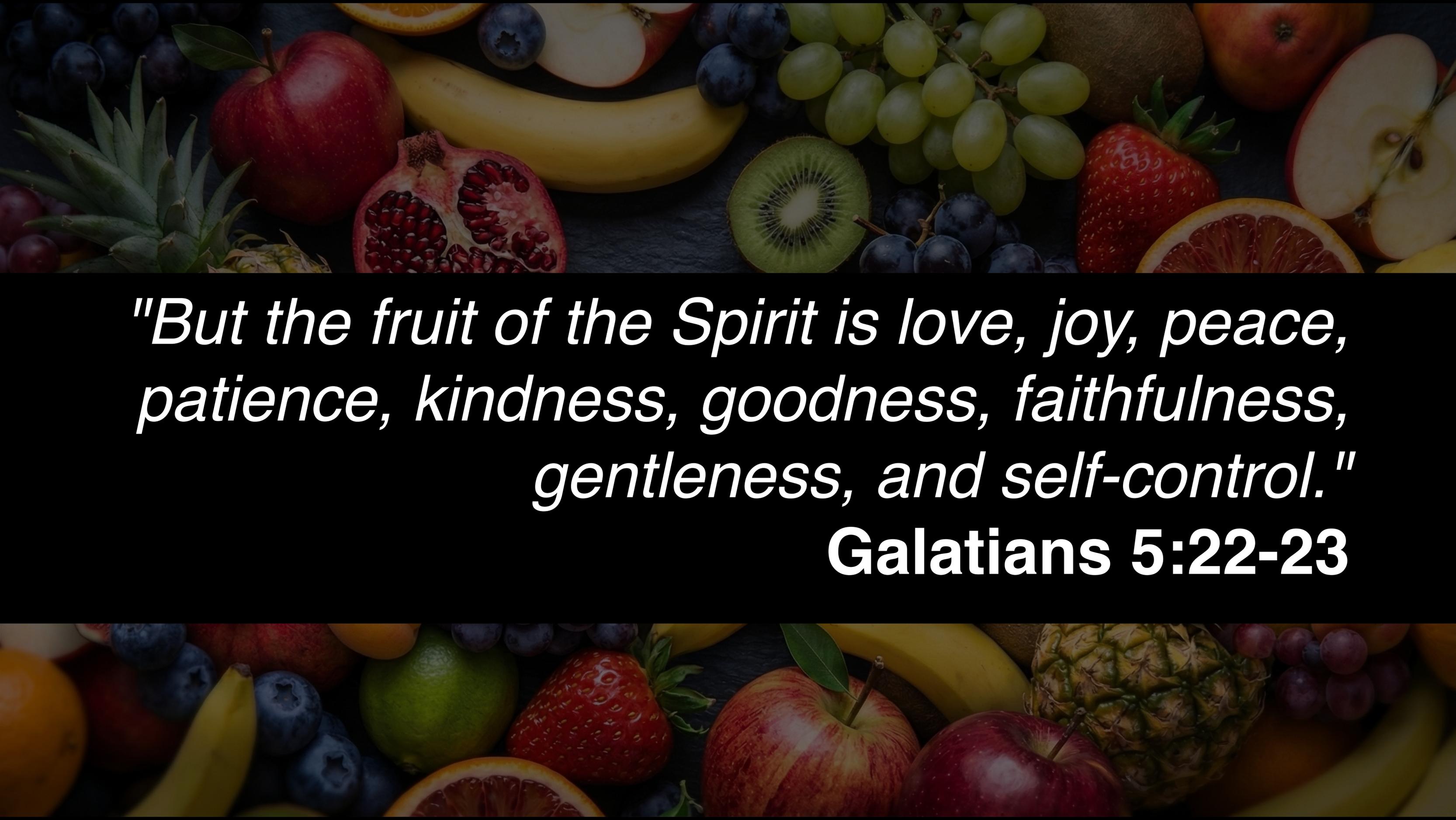
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“*Makrothymia*”

It literally means having a long soul. Or as many people translate it — long-suffering.



★ **Patience** is not the absence of emotion.
It's the **EXTENSION** of it.
It's a long fuse, not no fuse.



*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, and self-control."*

Galatians 5:22-23



"Love is patient and kind..."
1 Corinthians 13:4



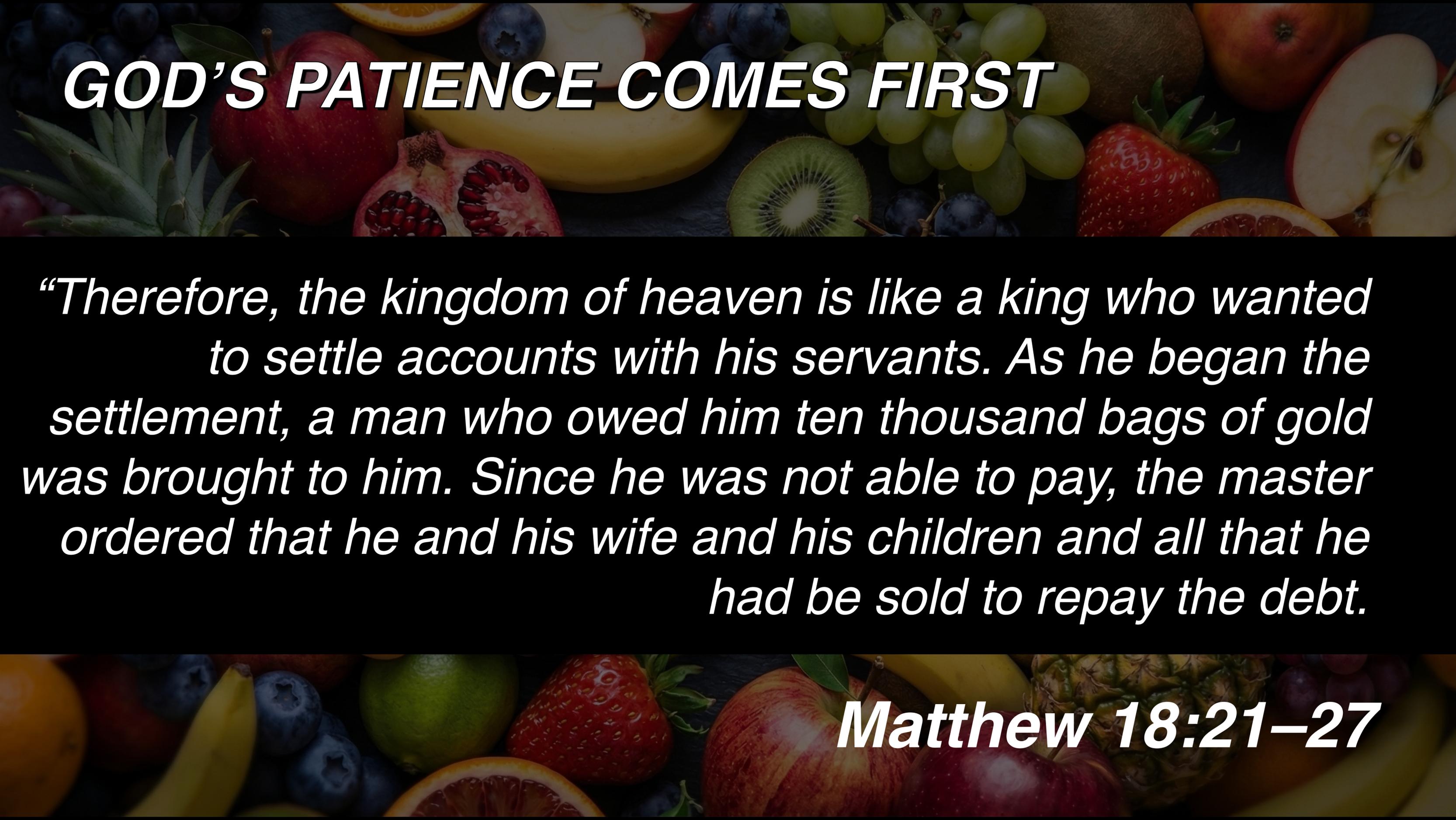
GOD'S PATIENCE COMES FIRST

A vibrant, close-up photograph of a variety of fresh fruits arranged on a dark, textured surface. The composition is dense and colorful, featuring several whole and sliced fruits. In the foreground, there are two pineapples with their characteristic diamond-patterned skin and green crowns. Scattered around them are clusters of dark purple grapes, bright red strawberries, and slices of green kiwi showing their white centers and black seeds. There are also several red apples, some whole and some sliced, along with orange slices and whole lemons. A pomegranate is cut open, revealing its juicy red seeds. The lighting is soft, highlighting the natural textures and colors of the produce.

GOD'S PATIENCE COMES FIRST

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"
Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Matthew 18:21–27



GOD'S PATIENCE COMES FIRST

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.”

Matthew 18:21–27



GOD'S PATIENCE COMES FIRST

“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.”



Matthew 18:21–27

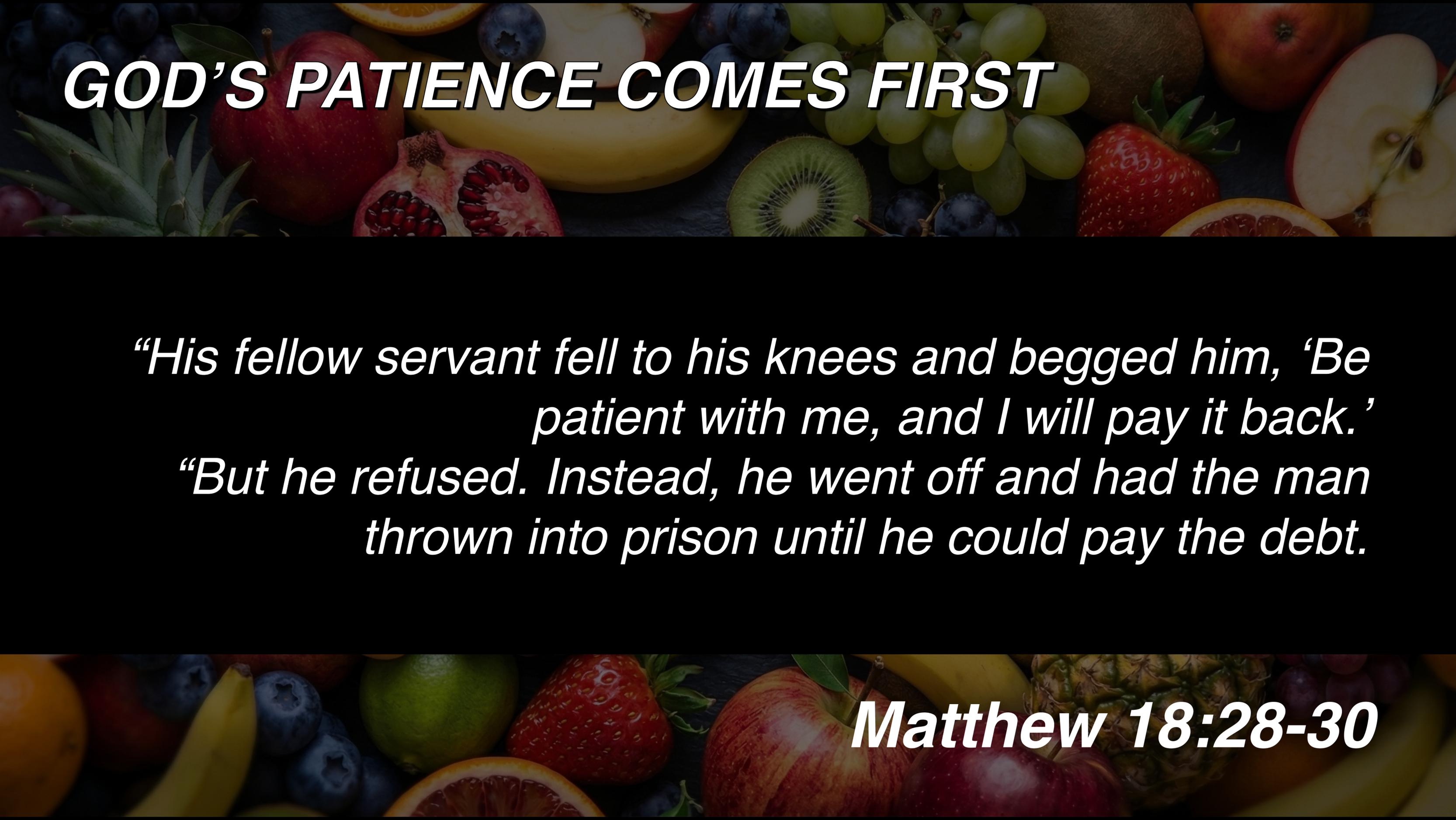


GOD'S PATIENCE COMES FIRST

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.



Matthew 18:28-30



GOD'S PATIENCE COMES FIRST

*“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’
“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.”*

Matthew 18:28-30



GOD'S PATIENCE COMES FIRST

When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.



Matthew 18:31–35



GOD'S PATIENCE COMES FIRST

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’”



Matthew 18:31–35



GOD'S PATIENCE COMES FIRST

In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Matthew 18:31–35



Matthew 18:31–35



GOD'S PATIENCE COMES FIRST

Discussion Question:

*The parable of the unforgiving servant ends harshly.
Why do you think Jesus made the consequences so serious?*





★ The patience we show others has to flow from the patience God has already shown us.



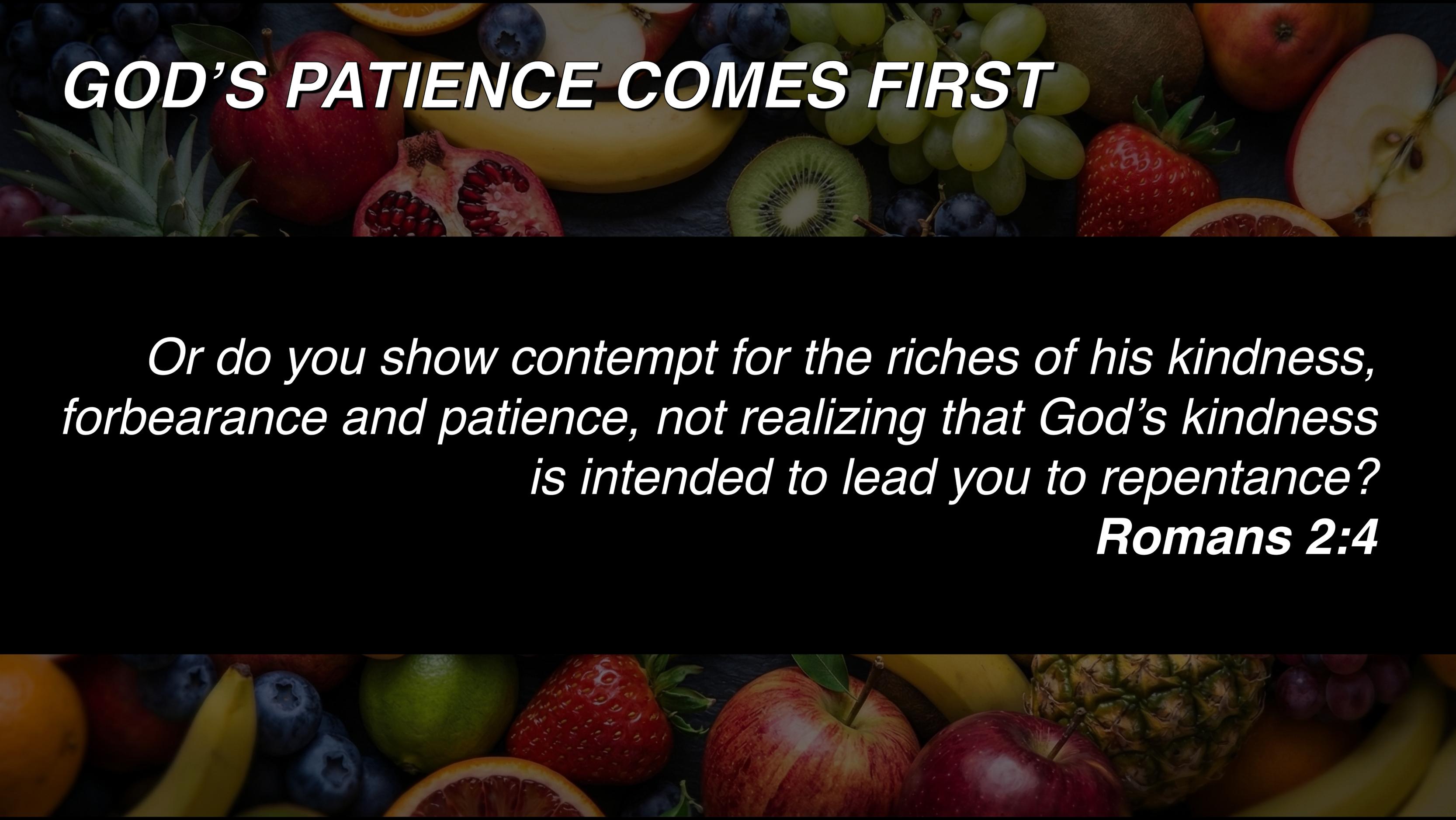


GOD'S PATIENCE COMES FIRST

Discussion Question:

What does it mean to you personally that God's patience with you is what makes your patience with others possible?





GOD'S PATIENCE COMES FIRST

Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Romans 2:4

TWO KINDS OF PATIENCE





TWO KINDS OF PATIENCE

1. Patience With People

***Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,
gentleness and patience.***

Colossians 3:12



TWO KINDS OF PATIENCE

1. Patience With People

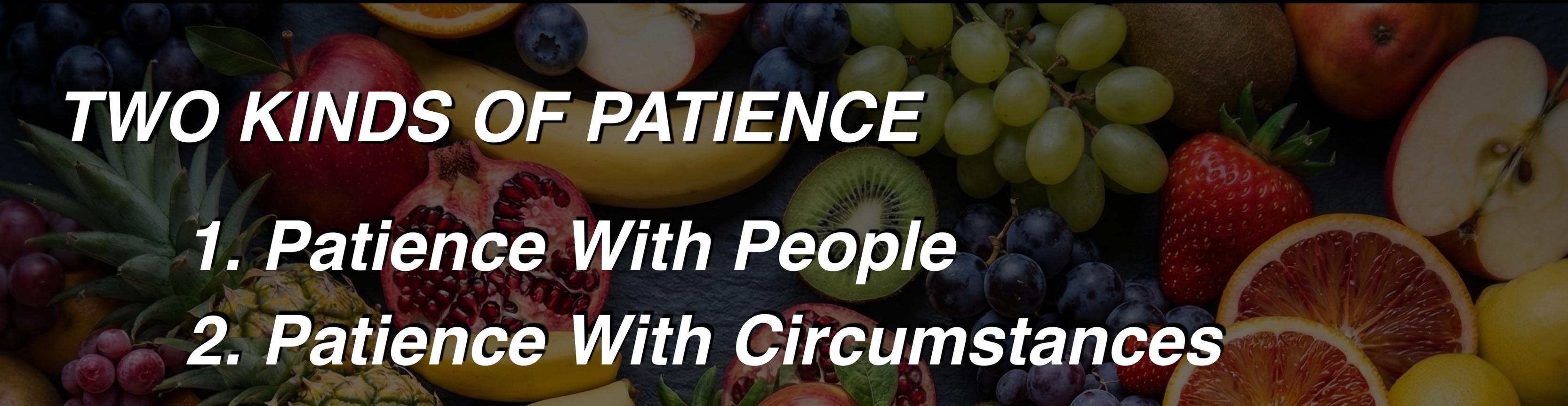
***"be patient with everyone."
1 Thessalonians 5:14***



TWO KINDS OF PATIENCE

1. Patience With People

★ Patience with people is not a personality trait — it's a spiritual discipline.



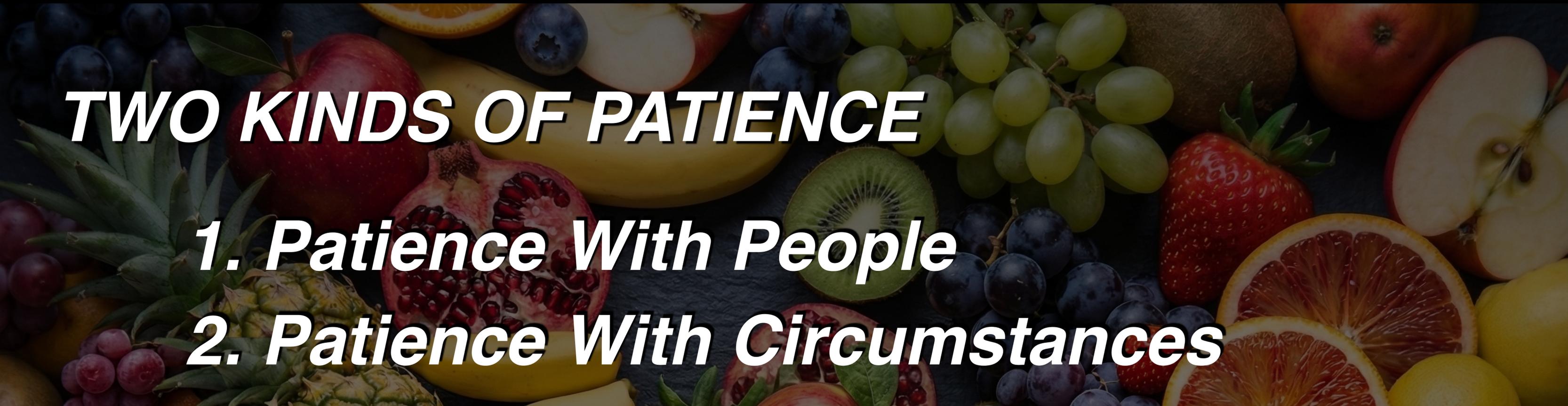
TWO KINDS OF PATIENCE

1. Patience With People

2. Patience With Circumstances

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

James 5:7-8



TWO KINDS OF PATIENCE

1. Patience With People

2. Patience With Circumstances

As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

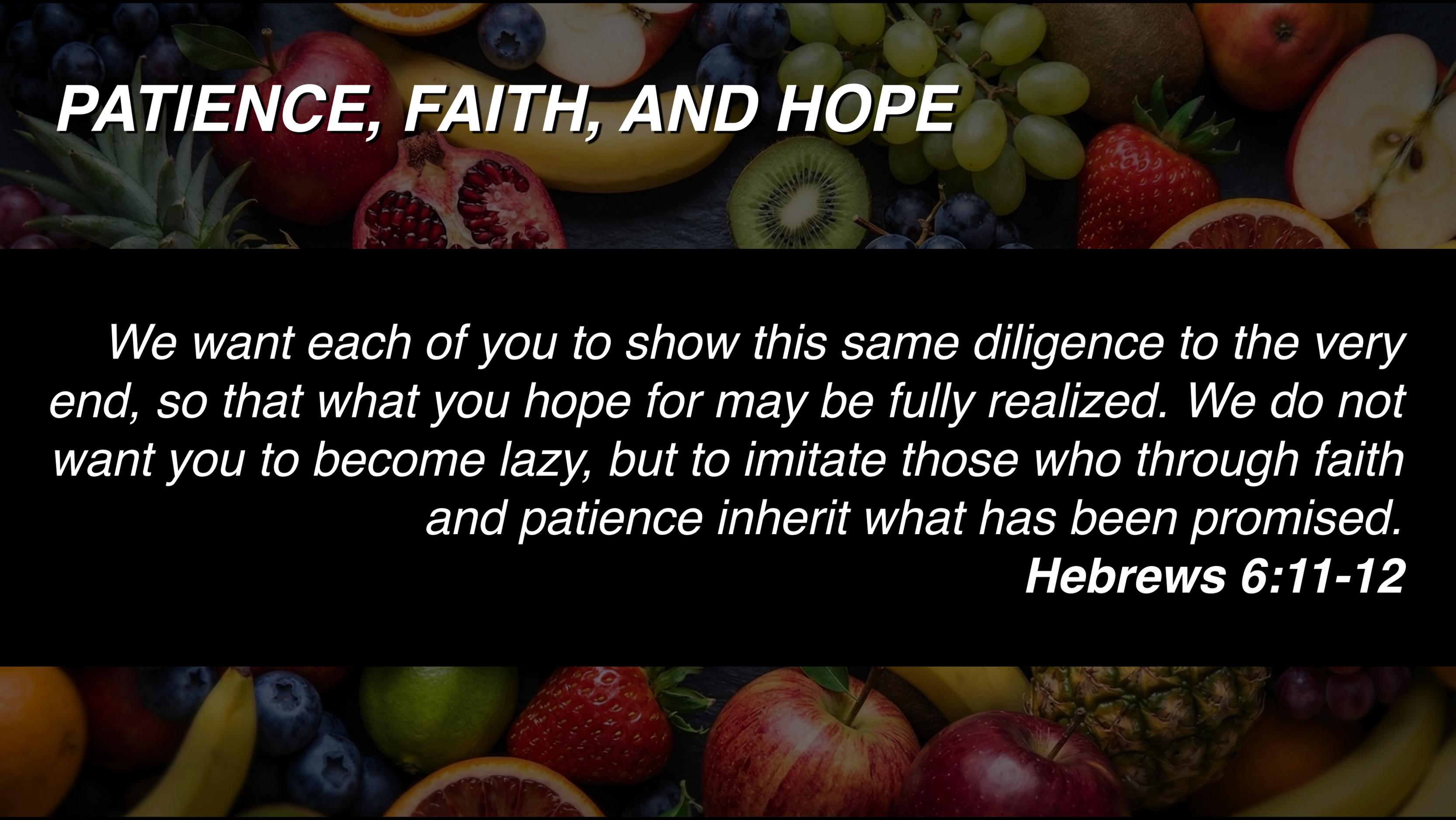
James 5:11



Discussion Question:

*Where in your life right now do you need the most patience
— with a person, or with a season?*





PATIENCE, FAITH, AND HOPE

We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Hebrews 6:11-12



PATIENCE, FAITH, AND HOPE

*"Having patiently endured, Abraham obtained the promise."
Hebrews 6:15*





PATIENCE, FAITH, AND HOPE

Discussion Question:

***What promise of God are you still waiting on?
How does Abraham's story encourage you?***





PATIENCE, FAITH, AND HOPE

★ *Patience is faith with legs.
It's what belief looks like when it has to walk
through time.*





PATIENCE, FAITH, AND HOPE

"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

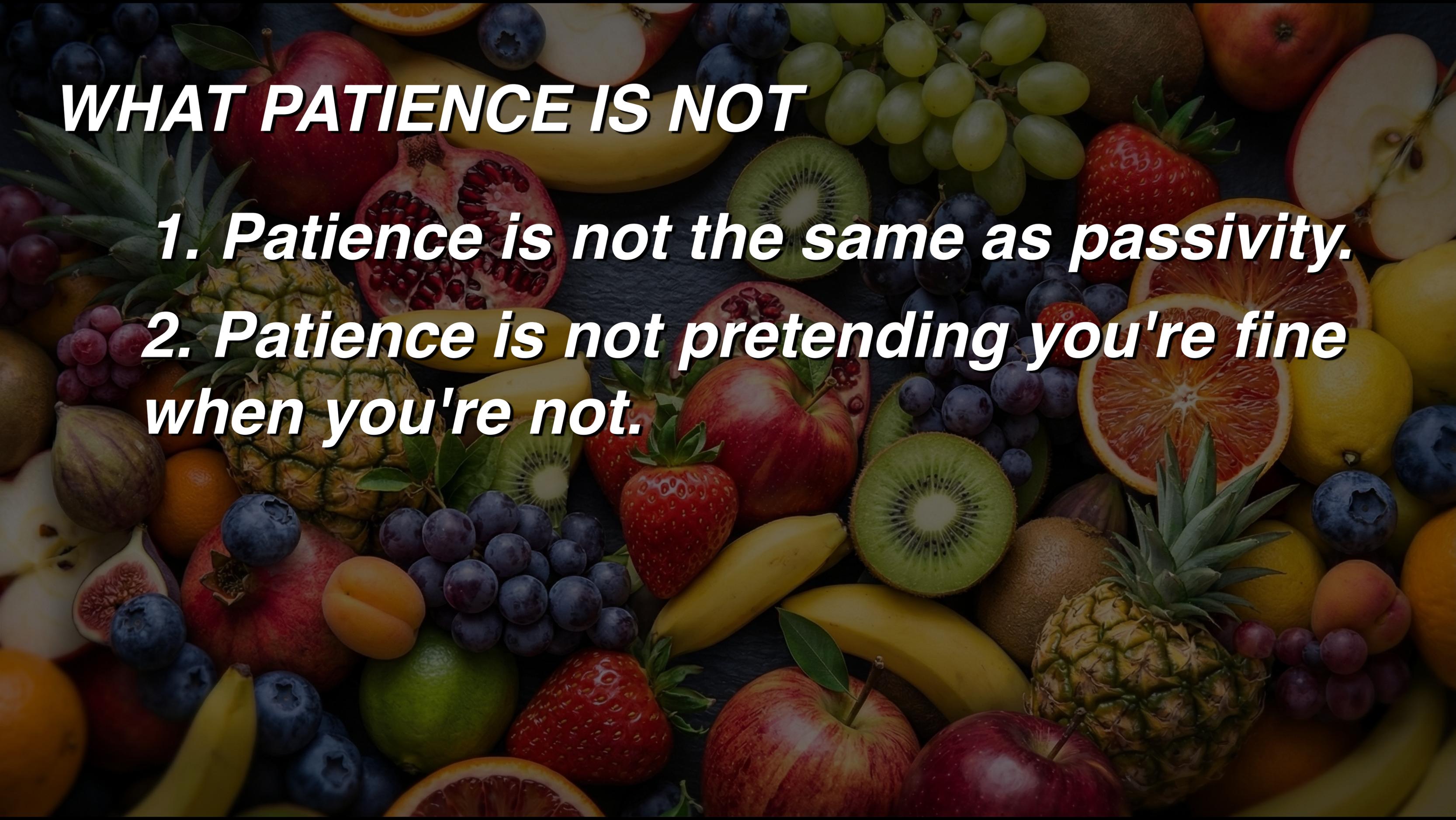
2 Peter 3:9





WHAT PATIENCE IS NOT

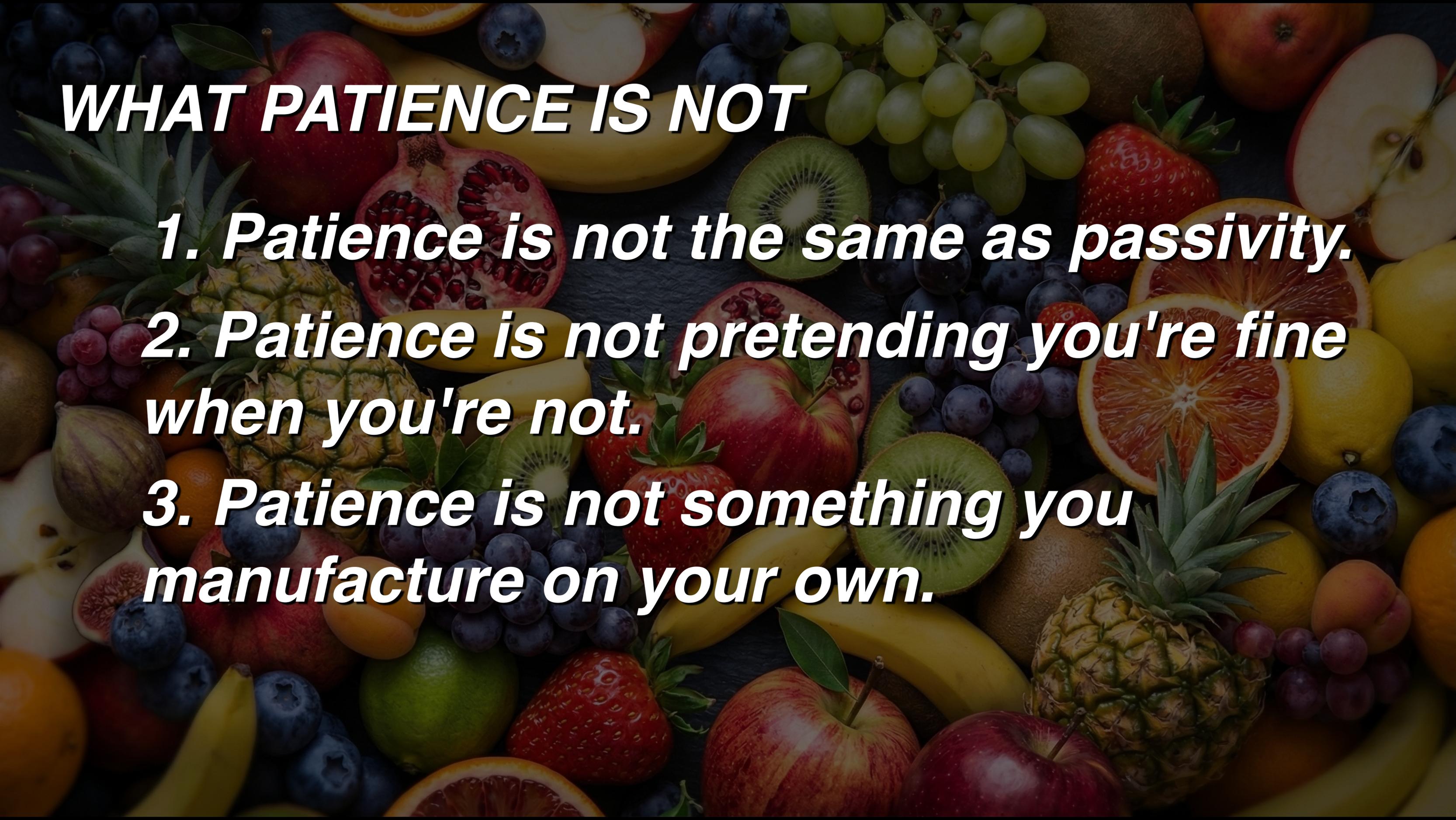
1. Patience is not the same as passivity.



WHAT PATIENCE IS NOT

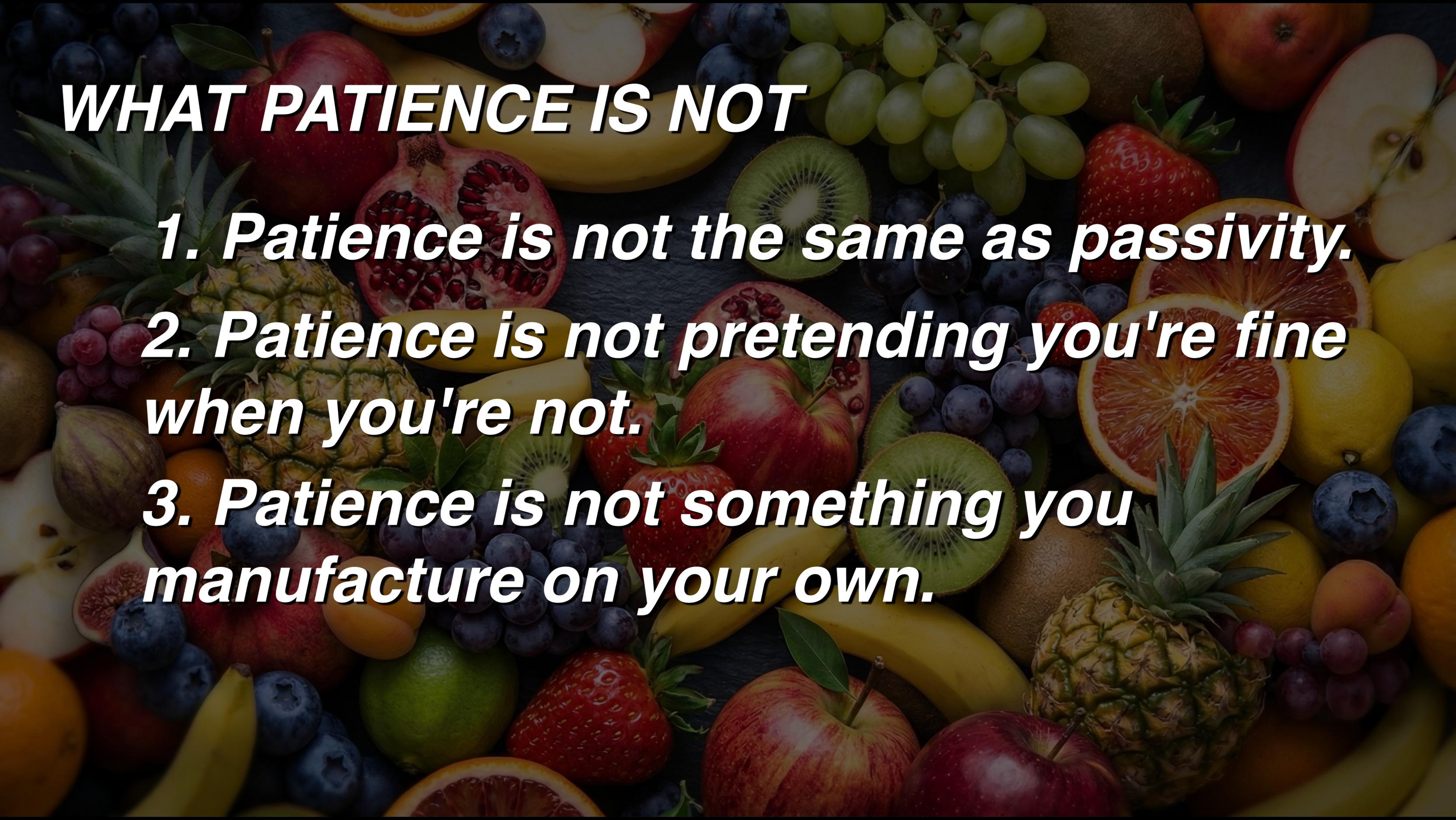
1. Patience is not the same as passivity.

2. Patience is not pretending you're fine when you're not.



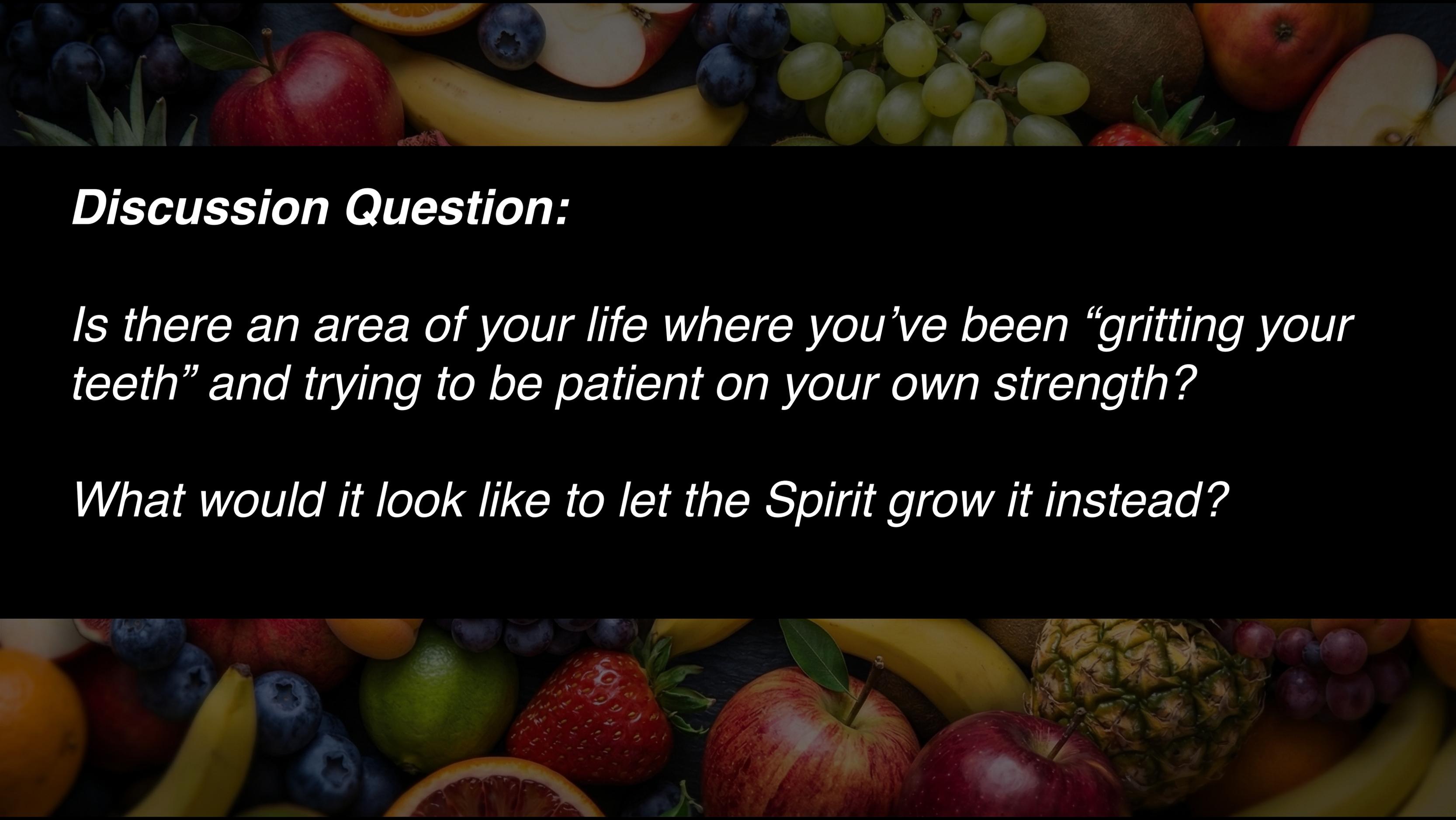
WHAT PATIENCE IS NOT

- 1. Patience is not the same as passivity.***
- 2. Patience is not pretending you're fine when you're not.***
- 3. Patience is not something you manufacture on your own.***



WHAT PATIENCE IS NOT

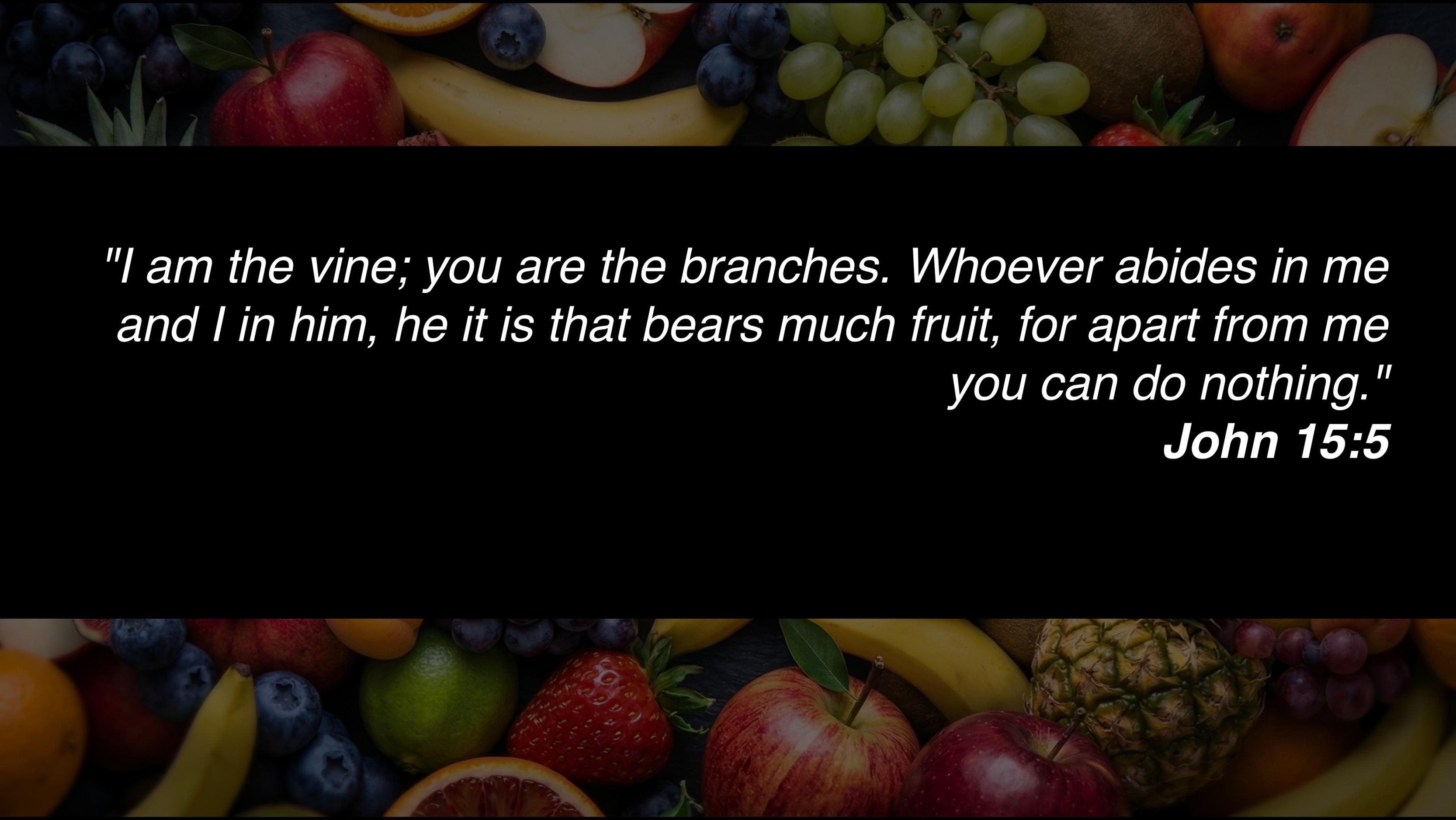
- 1. Patience is not the same as passivity.***
- 2. Patience is not pretending you're fine when you're not.***
- 3. Patience is not something you manufacture on your own.***



Discussion Question:

Is there an area of your life where you've been "gritting your teeth" and trying to be patient on your own strength?

What would it look like to let the Spirit grow it instead?

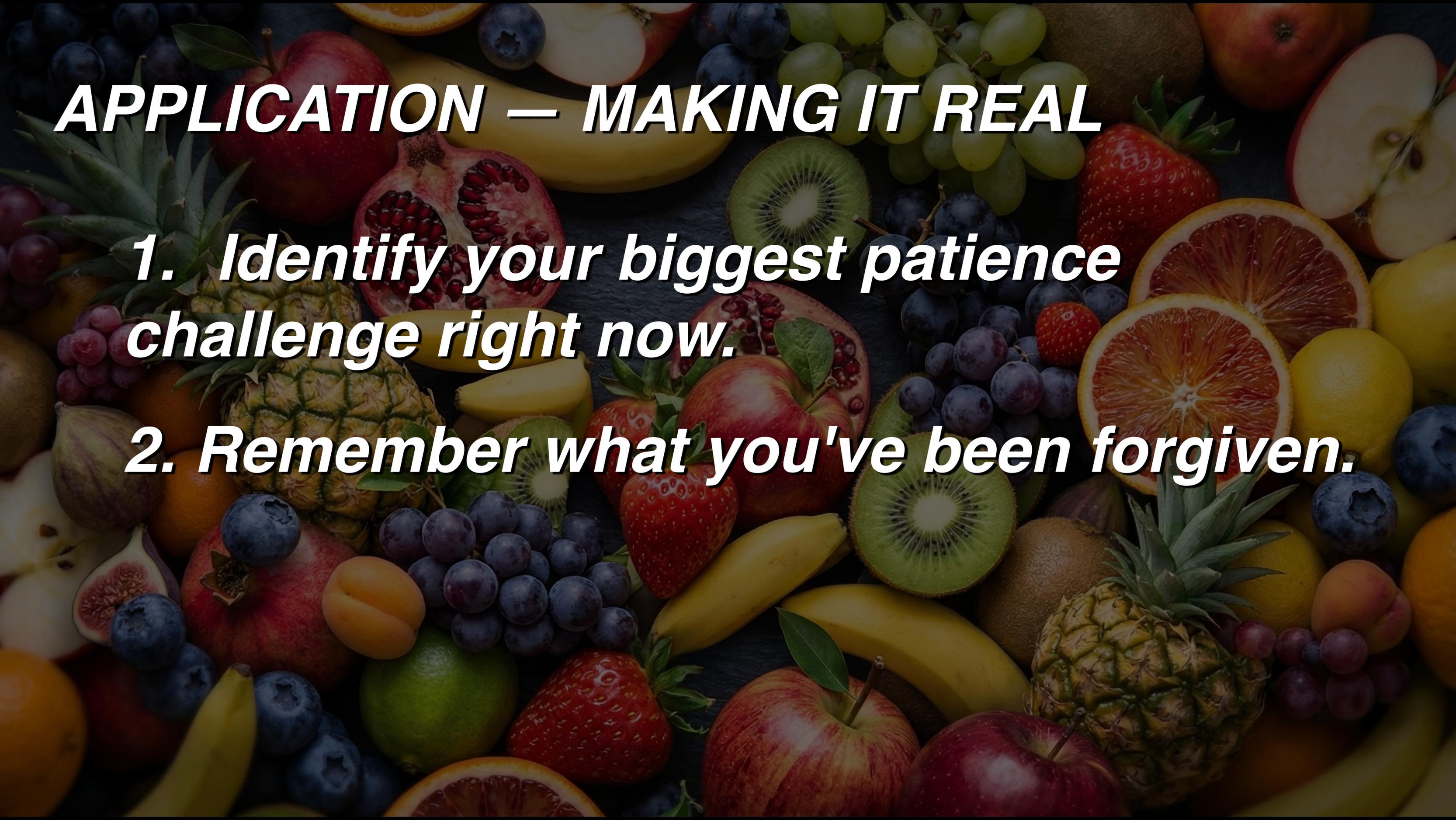


*"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15:5*



APPLICATION — MAKING IT REAL

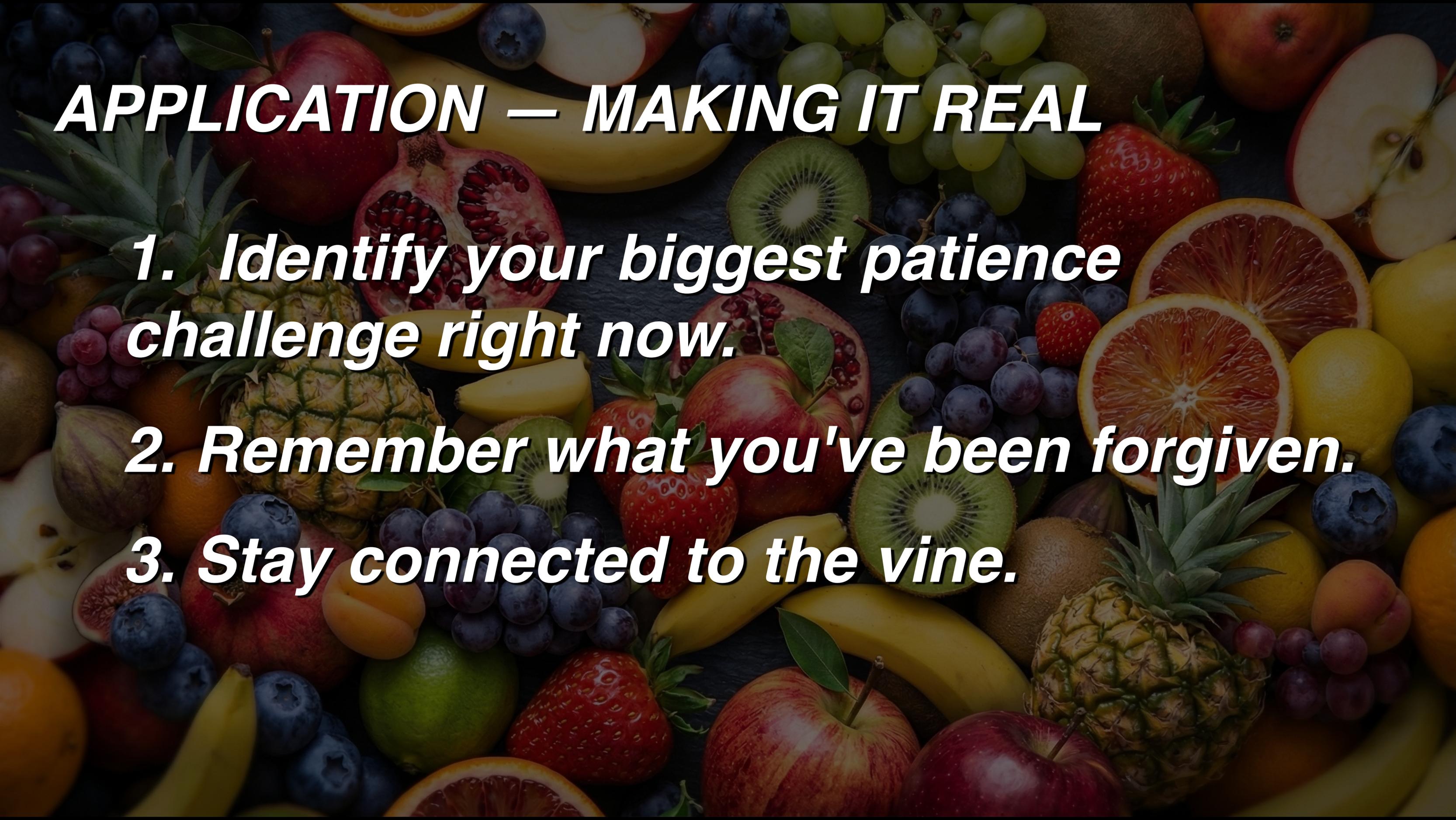
1. Identify your biggest patience challenge right now.



APPLICATION — MAKING IT REAL

1. Identify your biggest patience challenge right now.

2. Remember what you've been forgiven.



APPLICATION — MAKING IT REAL

1. Identify your biggest patience challenge right now.

2. Remember what you've been forgiven.

3. Stay connected to the vine.



★ *The most patient people aren't the ones who feel nothing.*

They're the ones who've been most overwhelmed by God's patience toward them.





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— Galatians 5:22–23