

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – November 20, 2022**

**Theme: The World Eagerly Awaits Your Manifestation Topic: Manifesting patience, self-control, and gentleness**

**Main Texts: Romans 15:1-13**

**Key verse: Romans 15:5** – *‘Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus’ (NKJV)*

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**INTRODUCTION:** In our study on **Manifesting the gifts of the Spirit**, we saw how the Holy Spirit gives various gifts for the good of all, just as the parts of the body are arranged to serve the Body. This week, we shift from the gifts to the fruit. According to Galatians 5:22-23, *“the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is ... patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”* (AMP). Whereas attributes of the Holy Spirit such as joy and peace reflect what is happening inside us, patience, self-control and gentleness, our focus today, are traits of the Holy Spirit which we exhibit towards others. So, manifesting patience, self-control, and gentleness is asking us to be the channels through which fellow believers, and the world around us experience the Holy Spirit who is in us. And the Holy Spirit earnestly wants to express Himself to others through us. Imagine refusing to allow the Holy Spirit to express Himself through us!

1. (a) Romans 15:1 says, **“We who are strong must be considerate ...We must not just please ourselves”** What does the word ‘**MUST**’ communicate to you about our need to manifest these qualities? (b) What motivations does Romans 15:2-3 offer for this command to manifest these three attributes of the Spirit? (c) Romans 15:3 identifies self-centeredness as an enemy to manifesting these virtues. How have you seen this play out in your life or in the Church?

Patience, self-control, and gentleness are qualities which are in short supply in a fast-paced city like Lagos, and indeed, the world. A sixty second survey of people in traffic on any given day on any given neighborhood in Lagos is all one needs to realize how badly these traits are needed in our society. Majority of people are walking around with short fuses. Road rage is a common occurrence in both the affluent and poorer neighborhoods. Many people have lost lives or limbs just because someone lost control of their emotions over matters which are often trivial. The pursuit of material success has left many people with shortened fuses, needing little to set them off. But **patience** is about *forbearance under ill-will, with no thought of retaliation*, **gentleness** is a *willingness to pardon injuries, correct faults*, and **self-control** is a *rational restraint of natural impulses*.

2. (a) What risks do you imagine one will run in trying to be patient, gentle, and self-controlled in the world today? (b) What possible help is there in knowing that Jesus experienced whatever risks being patient, self-controlled and gentle might pose (Romans 15:3)? (c) Romans 8:17 says that sharing in Christ’s suffering is part of the package. How does this make you feel as you think about going out there to manifest patience, self-control, and gentleness?

The call to manifest patience, self-control, and gentleness would not be such an arduous task if we are only to do it to fellow believers and those we like. Unfortunately, Romans 15:9 says that Christ *“... also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for his mercies to them....”* (NLT). Perhaps it is in recognition of the challenging nature of this expectation to manifest patience, self-control, and gentleness to even the unbelieving world that motivated Apostle Paul to pray that God will completely fill the believers **with** joy and peace ... so that they will overflow with confident hope... (Romans 15:13 NLT)

3. Read Romans 15:5, 13. (a) What do you make of the prayers contained in these verses in the light of the topic? (b) How is God described in these prayers and what is the implication for us as we contemplate this challenging call to be patient, self-controlled and gentle in the self-centered world we live in? (c) Let participants share one thing they will start doing because of the prayers in Romans 15:5,13?

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**Prayer:** *God Almighty, please empower us to manifest patience, self-control, and gentleness. May the world experience the presence of Your Holy Spirit through us, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.*