

A Prayer for You

From the article “Walking in the Fruit of the Spirit: Learning to Look More Like Jesus”

Holy Spirit, thank You that this fruit is Yours to grow and not mine to manufacture. I've spent so long trying to be patient by force and kind by effort, and I always run out at exactly the wrong moment.

Teach me to abide. Not just to read about You, but to stay close enough that something changes in me. Where I've been busy and dry, draw me back. Where I've substituted activity for intimacy, forgive me and reset me.

Grow love in me for the people who are hardest to love. Grow joy that doesn't depend on my week going well. Grow peace where I want control, and patience where I want everything now. Make me kind in small, ordinary ways, and good when no one would ever know the difference. Make me faithful in what I've already been given. Make me gentle — strong without being sharp. And give me self-control over the thing I reach for when I'm overwhelmed.

I'm not asking to look impressive. I'm asking to look more like Jesus, in my house, on an ordinary Tuesday, with the people who see me at my worst.

Be patient with how slowly this grows, and help me be patient with it too. In Jesus' name, amen.

Amen.

Scripture to sit with (KJV)

Galatians 5:22-23

John 15:5

Philippians 4:6-7

Ephesians 4:31-32

Romans 12:2