We learn to be more patient toward others as students of God's patience with us.

1. God Shows Amazing Patience with Us as Sinners who Need his Son

a. The remarkable patience of our gracious God (2 Peter 3:9) the Lord grants us more time to literally leave us space and give us room to come to grips with the gravity of our sin and reality of our need to trust in God's promise of eternal life through him

b. The perfect patience of our merciful Savior (1 Timothy 1:15-16) like the apostle Paul, our story of redemption is a tangible, real life account of Jesus' perfect, inexhaustible, transformative patience

2. We Grow Increasing Patience with Others as Saints who Need his Spirit

a. Patience signals our identity as God's people (Colossians 3:12-13) our patience as God's chosen, holy, and beloved is evident in our forbearance and forgiveness

b. Patience strengthens our unity among God's people (Ephesians 4:1-3) it's impossible to unite as God's people unless we mature as individual believers

c. Patience facilitates our communication with God's people (James 1:19-20) our communication improves if we are quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger

d. Patience enables our ministry to God's people (1 Thessalonians 5:14) Spirit-shaped patience empowers us to properly love all kinds of people