

I think that I am reasonably good at dealing with delays, but you better check with my family to know for sure. Delays are a part of life: waiting rooms, stop-and-go traffic, waiting for relief workers, waiting for a medical test . . . waiting is the hardest work we ever do.

And because living with delays it is such hard work, God helps us delay with grace. To accept delay with grace is a fruit of the Spirit. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." [Galatians 5:22]

Patience is a fruit of loving Jesus. A fruit is something that we cultivate with attention (Ask yourself why you are so angry the next time you are impatient.), nurture (What are you doing to relieve yourself of undue stress?), and occasional pruning (Who do you listen to as a check on yourself?)

To live as a Christian Church person requires patience. We wait for each other and wait for the Spirit-blowing as it will - - to come and to lead us.

But we wait with expectancy. We are expectant that God will act again as God has always acted for us. Our prayer becomes not the witty "Lord, grant me patience but hurry," instead it is "Lord, grant me the trust to wait on you."

Patiently waiting with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harvey Gray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

(Harvey) Gray

