

Vital Signs are indicators of LIFE...

1. There are vital signs that indicate a person is physically alive, and there are vital signs that indicate spiritual life.
2. Fruit of the Holy Spirit indicate that a person is spiritually alive. ***The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*** (Gal 5:22-23)
3. Fruit of the Holy Spirit in people's lives is the result of relationship with and 'abiding' in Christ. (John 15:4)

1. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit reveals the character/nature of God which is being nurtured/ developed/grown in the lives of followers of Christ who 'abide in Him.'

- Romans 8:29 tells us that disciples of Jesus are intended to be 'conformed to His image' (growing in all things)
 1. How we think – having the 'mind of Christ' (1Cor 2:16)
 2. Serving and 'doing' in Jesus' name – Ministry - " *He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.* (John 14:12)
 3. 'Becoming' – maturing/character – Growing and bearing fruit – (Gal 5:22-23)
- We are an angry nation, full of short-tempered people.
 1. *You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world.* (Mat 5:13-14)

2. Patience (a.k.a. longsuffering) ...

- God's Example of Patience / Longsuffering
 1. *The LORD, the LORD God is merciful and gracious, longsuffering (slow to anger-NIV), and abounding in goodness and truth... (Exo 34:6)*
 2. *The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished... (Num 14:18 - NIV)*
 3. *But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. (Psa 86:15) (Psm 103:8)*
- The Opposite of 'Patience' is Anger
 1. The word for 'patience' in the O.T. comes from two in the original language: long and temper.
 2. *A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man (he who is slow to anger) calms a quarrel. (Prov 15:18)*
 3. *He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city. (Prov 16:32)*

3. Patience in our Lives

- The Holy Spirit works His patience in my life as I...
 1. Keep thanking God for His patience with me...
 - a. *The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Pet 3:9)*
 2. God asks us to be to others as He has/is being to us – do it.
 - a. *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (Eph 4:2)*
 3. Learn... and continue to grow...
 - a. *A man's wisdom gives him patience (deferred anger KJV); it is to his glory to overlook an offense. (Prov 19:11)*
 - b. *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2-4)*