Transcript:

[Music] take [Music] a reading from Galatians 5:22 but the fruit of the spirit is love joy peace forbearance kindness goodness faithfulness gentleness and self-control again against such things there is no law the word of the lord well good morning how are you good to see you guys if you don't know me my name is Billy uh one of the pastors here I've actually been here quite a few years I Don't Preach very often um and so yeah if you'd pray for me today I said this last night honestly I got up last night and these nerves I don't

get nervous but these nerves hit me I was like let's pause and pray but let's do that in just a second before I get there um you may not know this or you probably know this there are uh we always have people that come you know every few weeks and so we actually have a lead Pastor his name is Larry Reno um he is on a 12we sabbatical currently and so if you've come to Waterstone over the past few weeks you may be wondering who's the pastor here well Larry Renault um he's it's kind of right in the middle I talked to him this

week just want to give you a brief update about his sabbatical he's doing really well um he spent a week or so back in Pennsylvania visiting his parents helping them early on in sabbatical he and his family just came back from Hawaii they spent a great vacation there in Hawaii um they are doing a ton of hiking up in the mountains a lot of different things up in the mountains and so uh he says hi he he's doing really well and he's looking forward to being back uh with us so that's Larry and if you don't know him

look forward to meeting him he's a phenomenal man and so as he's gone this summer we've been working on this series called renewal um this series about the fruit of the spirit it comes from Galatians five um the Galatians are a very interesting people um apparently they were somewhat emotionally driven apparently they were highly emotional um there's a quote from Caesar and talking about these people of Galatia he says that they were very fickle in their resolve they were fond of change and

they were not to be trusted so that's Caesar talking about the Galatians uh we see this this picture from um acts of the Galatians Paul uh the Apostle Paul takes a miss a missionary trip to Galatia and what happens he's preaching the gospel to them and the first thing they do they see him in the morning is they want to make him a god they think you're a God they worship him a few hours later they want to murder him um I'm giving you this picture of these kind of emotionally driven uh culture and Galatians 3 it actually starts in

Galatians 3 and it's addressing the Galatians and it says this phrase in the NIV you foolish Galatians well that's translated in lots of places as you stupid Galatians I'm not kidding um that's how people saw them as a matter of fact the small group that Sarah and I are part of um we've been with them for a couple years they're laughing because they're all sitting right here um we call ourselves the stupid Galatians not kidding um because we understand how we can be driven by our emotions and

how we can um emotionally driven do things we don't want to do and not do the things we want to do and that's this call in Galatians and so as we dive in this morning um I would just like to pause and pray would you please pray with me God we uh we thank you for this morning we thank you for the opportunity to dig deep in your word God we thank you for the opportunity to grow God to become more like you God it's our privilege this morning to be with your people worshiping you and God we ask for you to

help us to do that help us to give you the best we have this morning in your name amen so again we call this series renewal we believe that God can and wants to renew us and we've been presented with this idea over the past few weeks in Galatians of we can choose a couple of ways to live we can either order our lives around living by the spirit walking by the spirit benefiting from the fruit of the spirit God's Gift in our lives or we can choose to orient our lives around what's called living by

the Flesh of giving our lives to things that are not of God and that's the choice that we face this morning but we believe if we order our lives around Jesus if we order our lives around walking by the spirit God wants to give us those things God wants to bless us God wants to open up those ideas that we've just talked about in Galatians 5:22 of love joy peace forbearance kindness goodness faithfulness gentleness and self-control as I read that list who doesn't want to live that way aren't our hearts drawn to that idea

of living with those character traits being present and active and apparent in our life that's who we want to be and that's what we've been talking about in this renewal series and today we turn our attention to um forbearance as the word we're calling it forbearance in the age of quitting now most of us don't think of the word forbearance in this phrase most of us over the course of our lives have heard the different word In this passage and that word is what patience so we're in a room and we're planning this series

and a bunch of us talking and Paul was Paul Joslin was helping to write out the series and we were all talking about it and he actually had written patience and I was looking at the NIV passage which we usually use a Waterstone and it had the word forbearance and I was like hey you know it's got the word forbearance instead of patience it's a slightly different word which word should we use and we talked about it for a while and a few minutes I'm like I don't really care honestly you choose what you want to do

have fun with it uh by the way at that point I wasn't supposed to preach this message I was going to preach a couple of weeks from now um but um as it turned out we chose forbearance and the schedule changed and I'm preaching forbearance in the age of quitting and what we're going to find out and we're going to go down is that actually forbearance and patience neither one of those words actually are really clear with what this meaning of this passage is and so we're going to talk about that but before we get there let's

talk about the other word in this uh title and that word is quitting so can I see by raising of the hands how many quitters we have in the room if you're a quitter there's a few there's a few we don't like that word do we don't like the word quitting um I actually believe that there are times when quitting is fine quitting is okay but I think what this verse is trying to say and what we're trying to present is this idea of that we can do hard things right we don't have to give up when the

times are tough now I learned a lesson about quitting early in life some of you like me um about my age grew up I grew up with a father who really presented this idea that we meaning the Lloyd family we don't quit we don't quit that we can stick it out whatever it is we can stick it out for as long as it takes we are not quitters in the Lloyd family how many you kind of resonate with that idea from your family I totally resonate with that uh well when I was 12 years old I was um on a baseball team this was a

hard baseball team actually what happened is the year prior I was kind of 11 on a baseball team with a bunch of 12y olds and a great coach but when I turned 12 they all went to the next level and I was stuck there with a brand new team a brand new coach and this coach was really not a good guy I'm just really honest he was not a nice guy he was harsh um he just was he was a terrible coach we were a terrible team um it was just a bad situation um and I would go home from practices or games or whatnot and say Dad I just

want to quit I just want to my dad's like you're not quitting and my mom's like you're not quitting and you just keep going and you know and you know the season whatever it was 12 weeks or so and one game was just really brutal and the coach was really harsh to a certain player it wasn't me actually really harsh to a certain player and I went home and I'm like that I just I just want to quit it and he said well we'll talk about it and so a couple days later I'm going to practice and my mom's driving me we getting out of the

car and before I get out of the car my mom looks at me and says Billy if you really want to quit we're okay with that and we'll support you and I learned a couple things in that that hey a you know it's good to keep going it's good to do hard things but there are times in life when quitting is okay and they felt like that was okay but they left it to me I actually chose not to quit we stuck it out I'm not sure how much better it got um but it's still a lesson to learn and that's what I want my kids to learn this

what I've always try to teach my kids is that we don't quit when it gets hard um I actually was over at my uh my uh brother and sister-in-law's house earlier this week and I recognized this sign on the wall they love this sign on their wall that they want to show up for their kids and the sign says we can do hard things don't you resonate with that don't you want your kids to know that we can do hard things and yet there are times when it's okay to quit for me um abusive relationships unhealthy habits unhealthy

Lifestyles by all means quit those things hear me well quit those unhealthy things but in life we don't have to quit now when I ask you this question and I'd like for you to tell me back what do you what would you say is the opposite of quitting give me some answers the opposite of quitting say them loud perseverance what else endurance great anything else I'm sorry I didn't hear that sorry steady I love that persistence love those things say again succeed yeah those are really

good things and I want us to realize we're going to go there in a minute and talk about this the two words that I'm really going to focus on with the kind of the first two words I heard there is perseverance and endurance and we're coming to that to the end but for now I told you we're going to talk about forbearance and kind of what the word actually means and so let's go there very quickly so when we think of the word forbearance it's actually a monetary economic term we've heard this

all the time the definition is of that is delaying or can canceling a debt we heard about this a lot during covid right families going through a tough time couldn't pay their mortgage the mortgage company would choose to give them a forbearance or the other piece of that we see a lot is in like student loans as a student graduating college has a tough time giving a job they can apply for forbearance that'll delay their payments for a while that's what forbearance means it's a great thing we

can even see with the gospel how it could be used to display that but it's not exactly what we're talking about in this verse the Greek word here is and I'm going to give you my best shot here makrothumia is the Greek word that's listed there makrothumia is best defined with a couple of words patience and longsuffering combined now we don't use the term longsuffering that much so I've used for our terms here today um patience and endurance to Define makrothumia to help us understand what we mean by forbearance

so we're going to start with patience you with me so start with patience now when we think of patience there are some different definitions that we can think about uh the first one is a bit of a Tim related definition here's a definition the ability to suppress annoyance or restlessness when confronted with DeLay So a time delay now I don't mean to brag but I'm pretty good at this I'm terrible I'm really not good when I go to the airport and I'm supposed to leave at a certain time and there's a two or three

hour delay I don't do well in those situations I don't do well when I'm behind a car that's just not doing what I think it should do it should be going faster right um so I was I was our family was out to dinner a couple nights ago and uh and uh my son was there was actually celebrating his birthday and my son was like Hey Dad what are you preaching I knew I was preaching what are you preaching on a Sunday and so simplified I'm like patience and he gets kind of a smirk on his face and he looks at me and he's like that's

perfect for you I told that joke last night at one of our friends who knows me pretty well is like I think you're very patient I do I think you're very patient and what the truth is that yes we can be certain ways in certain situations but the people who know us the best see our hearts right and they see how we are and that's kind of the root of who you are so that's the first piece of patience time piece the second piece of patience of definition is just this idea of there are patient people out there the

definition is quiet steady perseverance even tempered that they are just people who are more patient than others I was thinking about that idea I was like okay who in my life is the most patient person I can remember and this name came to me as the name uh Guy Mr. Chapman I don't remember his first name he was a really old guy when I was a really little boy at our small little church um he was a retired Pastor he lived across the street from the church uh we would hang out his house we would make ice

cream I just remember him being a very kind gentle loving present man um and so that name came to me and I was write it down and I was going to kind of talk about that and then yesterday as I was doing some final preparations for this weekend this story came to mind and I'm like wow I haven't thought about this story in probably 40 years um that this story came to mind at the small little church I was a part of one Sunday a year we called it like youth Sunday or something and the youth would do the

service or sing or one somebody preached or whatnot but uh one of the things we always did is the youth and there weren't very many of us maybe 10 um would spread out into different Sunday School classes and so for that Sunday one of the youth would teach a Sunday school class and that my Sunday school class that I was chosen to preach for was Mr. Chapman's Sunday school class again he a former preacher um really godly man and so I remember sitting there with probably 20 or so um adults and I don't remember what I said I don't

remember if it was right it was probably very heretical honestly um but um I just remember his response to me very clearly of just kindness and love and encouragement and he could have fixed everything that I said wrong but he didn't he just showed me love and acceptance and encouragement and that was a patient person that's my that's my thought when I think about just who patient people are and I believe that as we engage with the walking by the spirit and the fruit of the spirit becomes more apparent that

God can help in those areas he can help us to be more patient when it comes to how long we wait for something he can help us to be patient people in general but the third definition I'm going to talk about is actually a little bit more focused on this passage and what this passage mean and this is a definition we're going to focus on for patience in the fruit of the spirit and that definition is this it's self-restraint which does not hastily retaliate a wrong self-restraint which does not easily retaliate a

wrong that means when someone wrongs us and we have every right to lash back or fight back or defend ourselves we choose not to we choose not to retaliate there's a story in scripture I'd like to use to illustrate this um you know the story of David in the Old Testament and David and Saul is what I'm going to focus on and from 1 Samuel and Saul was King David was the next king everybody knew that David was going to be the next king he'd been anointed he'd been announced everything

was going on and Saul hated David hated him to the point of wanting to and trying to kill him there's a story of Saul at dinner just taking a spear and throwing it at David's head he tried to kill him and it became pretty apparent to David after a while that his life was endanger this wasn't going to stop and so one time one night when David was in in really imminent danger he and his group of men leave they go to the Wilderness they go and on the run and so Saul's response to that is to gather his army and let's go

we're going to go kill David let's go he's my enemy I'm going to kill him and so that's the story we find here and so Saul and his men are in the wilderness and Saul um has to relieve himself has to go to the restroom and there's a cave and so Saul goes into the cave to relieve himself and lo and behold David and his men have taken Refuge they're hiding in that cave specifically and so all David's men are like David this is your chance this is God's gift to you God has given you Saul into your hands all you have to do is go

kill him defend yourself and I think David thought about it honestly David creeps up he takes a knife and cuts off a piece of Saul's robe but then he Retreats and he's conscious STG he's like what have I done how have I Dishonored my master my king by embarrassing him by cutting off the robe and this is what David says to his men in 1st Samuel 24 he says to his men this the Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master the Lord anointed or lay my hand on him for he is the anointed of the Lord with these

words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul and Saul left the cave and went on his way you see David made a decision to let God defend him that he wasn't going to defend himself he wasn't gonna show anger and avenge what was being attacked at him here's another story I'd like to use to point this out um I read this in the History Channel but in January of 1956 Martin Luther King Jr he was beginning his life in Ministry he had moved his family to Montgomery Alabama was pastoring a small

church he was just starting out in Ministry he was heavily involved in issues of racial equality and justice actually in this time he was helping to lead a boycott of the Montgomery Bus system so on the evening of January 27th 1956 Martin Luther King Jr was in his kitchen in the evening he was working on coordinating this boycott he was had a lot of phone calls to deal with he was preparing his sermons he was just being a leader being a man he received a phone call and a voice came on the phone and I

will not quote the what he said word for word it's really brutal but what I will say this is this man told Dr King that he needed to quit what you're doing right now or in three days I'm going to bomb your house and put a bullet in your head again Dr King was a young man he was just starting out and this really affected him it said that he stopped and he put his hands in his face and he said Lord I'm just down here trying to do what's right but I must confess I'm losing my courage he was stricken so he kept going

with his work in Ministry and lo and behold three days later January 30th 1956 Martin Luther King Jr was actually preaching at a church near his house his wife and young daughter seven-month-old daughter his first of four children were at home when someone drove by his house and threw a bomb on his front porch and it blew up now I do want us pause and say the house did not burn down his wife and child were safe but it caused a lot of anger and Martin Luther King came home from where he was preaching and as he

was doing so a crowd began to gather his friends his co-workers his neighbors they all gathered at his house and they were very angry they wanted to go do something they wanted to go hurt somebody they wanted to go Riot they wanted to go do something they were angry and Martin Luther King said these words to them I want you to love our enemies be good to them love them and let them know that you love them in a situation where they had every right to defend themselves very every right to lash out in

anger Dr King urged them to show love to their enemies so I want to pause here and just ask a couple of questions of us and let you think for just a moment these are the two questions who is your enemy and how can you show love to them so this is the patience that shows self-restraint which does not hastily retaliate or wrong the second word that I want to focus on in this patient endurance piece is the word endurance and the definition we're going to use to talk about endurance is simply this it does not easily quit

under suffering does not easily quit under suffering it's the idea that no matter the heart ships that we Face we can keep going we can do hard things we can persevere we can endure as most of you know you've been around Waterstone for a while we uh love Christmas Eve services we spend a lot of time and energy and resources on great Christmas Eve services we do that so you can bring your friends and neighbors uh to a good service to be presented the gospel um well a few years ago our Christmas Eve

service was a really special service one of my favorites in that service uh it was titled A weary World rejoices and in that service we showed video stories of four people families in our church that through really hard circumstances through really tough trials we're choosing to hold on to Jesus we're choosing to keep their faith we're choosing to do the hard thing we told the story of a mother um who had lost multiple babies before full term we told the story of a young woman who had faced immense family turmoil and

even abuse we told the story of an older married couple who had found each other later in life and pretty soon after they were married the husband um had a bicycle accident and was paralyzed and telling their story of living through this paralysis and life and we told the story of a young woman who at a very early age had cancer and yet through this cancer diagnosis was choosing to follow Jesus and live her faith well and here's the truth um those stories when we told them were still being written they weren't

resolved they're still not resolved as a matter of fact the young woman who had cancer actually passed away a couple of years after that story was told and so for her she's with Jesus her story is resolved and yet the rest of us her family her friends all of us deal with the pain and heartbreak of losing a daughter and a friend that's what it means to do hard things I wish I could say that you know all of the hardships end with like the Disney fairy tale ending but they don't we live through the hard things

and so I'd like to present a couple of ideas about why we should endure the hard circumstances why do we endure the first thing I'm going to present to you um it's a little bit controversial about please bear with me and let me explain what I'm talking about here and it's simply this I believe that scripture teaches that it's God's discipline now I'd like for you to read this passage with me Hebrews 12 5-7 my son do not make light of the Lord's discipline and do not lose heart when he rebukes you because the Lord disciplines

the one he loves and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son endure hardship as discipline God is treating you as his children for what children are not disciplined by their father so hear me clearly I'm not saying it's punishment I'm saying it's discipline punishment is about retribution discipline is about growth I'm not saying that God is even causing the hard things to happen in our life I'm saying that through the hard things that happened to us we have an opportunity to grow our faith to grow our trust we have

an opportunity to Simply grow closer to Jesus as parents we don't often cause the hard things to happen to our kids I hope we don't intentionally cause the hard things to happen to our kids but certainly we want to walk them through those hard things certainly we want to help them to grow in their faith and grow in their love for the Lord through the hard things and I think that's how God works with us as well as we walk through the hard things God is helping us that's discipline that's growth the second thing I present to

you is that we endure hard things to show others Jesus 2 Timothy 2: 8-10 Paul is writing this and he says this is my gospel for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal but God's word is not chained therefore I Endure everything for the sake of the elect that they too May obtain the Salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory to say it simply we endure because others see us and through that they can be drawn to Christ the best way I can illustrate that is through um really a bit of a

hard statement here but it's through death I've had the privilege along with Larry to sing and serve at many funerals here at Waterstone to say it simply there's just a difference when you see a family of strong faith walking through a death than there is to see a family with very little or no faith walking through a death often times the reasons are the same for the death it could be sickness or accident or even natural causes but those who have a firm hope and Assurance for the future they just

grieve differently and I think that people see this hope in us they see how we handle hard circumstances and can be drawn to Christ because of how they see us endure we show Jesus to others by how we endure hard things the last point I'd like to present to you of why we endure hard things is this because Christ endured hard things for us this is the point of the message today don't miss this Christ endured hard things for us Hebrews 12 1-3 says this and let us run with perseverance the r race marked out

for us fixing our eyes on Jesus the Pioneer and perfector of our faith for the joy set before for him he endured the cross scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the Throne of God and this is for us consider him who endured such opposition from Sinners so that you will not grow weary and lose heart because Christ endured we can endure because Christ did the hard thing he walked to the cross and died for us we can do hard things to show others his love to show others his patience now I don't

know what hardships you have in your life but I do know that through the power and help of our God you can endure those of us who are Christ followers know that we were not made for this this world we were made for eternity with Jesus and we also know that our troubles and our hardships are temporary no matter how hard they are but our joy and our Victory is forever you see when Jesus was going to the Cross he could have quit at any time but he didn't he came into this world he lived a perfect life he suffered judgment and

beatings and even death on a cross he was resurrected on the third day in order to defeat sin and make a way for us to live with him forever do you get this do you get this we Face a choice we Face a choice to orient our lives around Jesus but to orient our lives around the way of the flush it's a really hard choice this morning if you have not made the decision if you have not made the choice to give your full Allegiance and focus to Jesus I beg you to do that today there are people here who would

love to talk to you and share with you but I beg you to give your allegiance to Jesus now I've given you the why do we endure the next question I think that Bear's asking is how do we endure and that is a much more difficult question to answer it's really hard how do we endure how do people walk through the hardest days in their life and keep their focus and love and attention and affection on Jesus sometimes I don't know but I present sent to you this answer and it's what we've been talking

about in this series and it is this we walk by the spirit not by the flesh I wish that I could say the moment we come to Christ that poof we are suddenly brand new in everything we do and the fruit of the spirit is just right there and we can live that way no problems no questions the truth is it's a journey the truth is it's an ongoing call sanctification of growing in Christ and growing with him and as we open our lives up and let him work with us and work in us we become more like him I hope that's what our life is about but

the truth is it's a battle it's a challenge between the Flesh and the spirit the Apostle Paul even talked about this battle a lot and in Romans 7 18 he uh he talks about this battle and he says this for I have the desire to do what is good but I cannot carry it out for I do not do the good I want to do but the evil I do not want to do this I keep on doing so water stone I beg you this morning to keep doing the hard things whether it comes through an intentional Act of aggression or anger towards you intentionally wanting to

hurting you or if it's simply through the hard things of life that we Face our doubts and our struggles we show that patient endurance we keep going for the sake of the one who kept going for us as we close this morning um I'd like for us to do something special when Paul was writing to the Colossians in in Colossians 1 he told them this piece he says every time I think of you I pray for you and the prayer that he prays in my view is really it sums up the struggle it sums up the why it sums up this this idea of

how the fruit of the spirit's manifested in Us and how I want us to close this morning is for us to pray this over each other so I want to invite you to stand please stand with me and we're going to read together from Colossians 1 but as we read this we're not really reading this as much as we are praying this for Waterstone we're praying this prayer for those around us so with that mindset would you please pray this prayer with me for this reason since the day we heard about you we have not stopped

praying for you we continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the spirit gives so that you may have life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way bearing fruit in every good work growing in the knowledge of God being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience and giving joyful thanks to the father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his people in the Kingdom of

Light let's pray God we uh we do love you we thank you and God just as a song that we sang earlier today God I'm happy and I'm thankful that you don't leave us where we are that you're refining us like gold you're making us more into the people you want us to be you're helping us to know what it means to become like Jesus and live for others in our daily life so God I pray for water stone today when hard things come when the opportunity comes for us to grow and persevere would you remind us Lord what

Jesus endured for us would you remind us Lord that everything we're going through Jesus knows he understands he walked through it as a human on this world we're not alone thank you for that truth today in your name amen