

Add To Your Faith - L6 "Patience In A Fallen World"

Introduction - Much like the word 'sacrifice,' the word 'patience' is not a popular term, but it is a biblical one, and it is greatly needed in the Christian life. As Peter continues in this passage in his second epistle, we read that we are to add to our faith patience.



Text: 2 Peter 1:5-6

The word 'patient' and the word 'patience' are found **42 times in the Word of God**. The Bible says in **1 Thessalonians 5:14** "14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, **be patient toward all men.**" And so, let's begin by understanding what we mean by this word, patience.

I. Patience _____

I think if we are to define the word patience, we could say it is simply this waiting and resting in God's care for us. Patience is not simply enduring, but it is enduring for the Lord. Patience is not simply waiting, but it is waiting on the Lord. The Bible tells us in **Romans 14:7-8**, "7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. 8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's."

You see, for the Christian, **our patience is based on what we know about our Savior.**

- We know that our Lord reigns.
- We know that our Lord is coming again. - **Titus 2:13**
- We know that our Lord holds us in His hands. - **John 10:27-29**

And so, patience is borne out of us resting in God's care for us. The Greek word that is used in Romans 5 means "cheerful endurance," and it also gives the idea of constancy. Not only are we to understand the definition of patience, but secondly, we should note that **we are directed to have patience**. All through the Bible, we can see examples of those who were patient. One of the purposes of those records is to serve as an example. And so, we see not only patience defined, but we see secondly,

II. Patience _____

"A Christian cannot excuse his lack of patience by saying, 'That's not me,' or 'My parents were impatient.'" We cannot use the excuse— well, this is just how I am. **In the book of James 5:8**, we read, "8 **Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.**"

Psalm 37:7 *“7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: Fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, Because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.”*

So, we have seen so far, Patience **Defined** and Patience **Directed**, but notice thirdly,

III. Patience _____

- In the life of Abraham
- In the life of Paul and Silas

A. In The _____ Of God

2 Corinthians 6:3–4 *“3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: 4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in **much patience**, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,”*

Paul, in speaking to Timothy about being a servant of the Lord in **1 Timothy 6:11**, *“11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and **follow after** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, **patience**, meekness.”*

2 Timothy 2:24, Paul again reiterates this when he states, *“24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, **patient**,”*

And so, not only in the servants of God, patience is demonstrated, but we should also make note of the patience demonstrated:

B. In The _____ Of God

The best example you and I will ever be given is in the life and ministry of Christ.

Hebrews 12:2–3 *“2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”*

We see not only Patience Defined, Patience Demanded, Patience Demonstrated, but thirdly, we come to the application of this:

IV. Patience _____

Unfortunately, patience is not just automatic in the life of the Christian. It is added to our faith, but it comes at a price. Obtaining patience is not impossible. We discover first that:

A. Patience Is Gained Through Tribulation

Romans 5:3 *“3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that **tribulation worketh patience;**”*

The word tribulation gives us the idea of “pressure.” We consider the burdens of this life, the troubles that befall us, and the persecutions that we face. All of these have the _____ to help us abound in patience. Patience is not only gained through tribulation, but secondly,

B. Patience Is Gained Through Trying Times

James 1:3 “*3 Knowing this, that **the trying of your faith** worketh patience.*” God tells us in His Word that the tests that God gives us are more precious than gold. **1 Peter 1:7** says, “*7 That the trial of your faith, **being much more precious than of gold that perisheth**, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*”

IV. Patience _____

Patience will need to be demonstrated as we upon the Lord and as we deal with men.

A. To Wait For Christ’s Coming

James 5:7 “*7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto **the coming of the Lord**. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*”

B. To Obtain Answered Prayer

The psalmist states in **Psalms 40:1**, “*1 I waited **patiently for the Lord**; And he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.*” Friends, can I tell you that you and I must demonstrate patience waiting upon the Lord? Persevering prayer requires patience. But then, thirdly, I believe we must demonstrate patience:

C. To Endure Persecution

1 Peter 2:20 tells us of the kind of patience exhibited by the Christian which is acceptable with God. Lastly, however, we must have patience,

D. To Run Our Race

Hebrews 12:1 tells us that patience is required to run our race. “*1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us**,*” The Lord has a race for every one of us to complete. “When a Christian adds patience to his faith, **James 1:4** tells us what the benefit will be: “*4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*” In order for you and me to be lacking nothing in the Christian life, **patience must be present.**