

# PATIENCE

## Christian Character in Action: Lesson 9

22 April 2022

- Ecclesiastes 7:8** “Better *is* the end of a thing than the beginning thereof *and* the patient in spirit *is* better than the proud in spirit.”
- We may start out proud and haughty. That is “**the beginning.**” But God will work to break that pride in us and develop patience. That is “**the end of a thing.**”
- Patience:** *Waiting with a trusting, confident attitude.*
- Application:** To not lose our trust in the Lord and our confidence in His promises while waiting.
- Bible references:** Romans 2:7, Romans 12:12, 2 Timothy 2:3-4, 1 Timothy 3:3, 2 Corinthians 6:4, 12:12, 1 Thessalonians 1:3, 2 Thessalonians 1:4, Revelation 2.
- **James 5:7** The farmer must exercise patience. He cannot force crops to grow fast.
  - **Matthew 18:23-35** The lender must be patient with the debtor.
  - **Luke 8:15** When we witness, we must wait for results patiently.
  - **Hebrews 6:12, 15; 10:36** We must patiently wait for God’s promises to be fulfilled.
  - **James 5:10** We need patience in physical illness and suffering.
  - **Revelation 1:9** We need patience in persecution for the cause of Christ.
- Romans 15:4-6** Patience comes from God through the scriptures. We must **know** what the bible says **and believe** what the bible says in order to have patience in difficult situations.
- Applications**
- I need money.** The bible says God will take care of those things if I put Him first (Mt 6:33). If I don’t believe the bible, I will put the money first and walk away from God.
- I’m lonely.** The bible says the Holy Ghost is the Comforter (John 14:16). The bible describes right and wrong relationships. If you don’t believe the bible, you will get impatient and settle for a wrong relationship to satisfy your loneliness. You will end up dissatisfied and unhappy.
- Romans 8:22-26** In the midst of our physical infirmities, we must patiently wait for the Lord. We need to trust God even if we suffer until the Lord takes us home to glory.
- Many Christians quit when they think God doesn’t deliver them from their troubles quick enough.
- God didn’t promise that He would give you a trouble-free life.
  - We must all reap what we sow.
  - Most of our troubles come because of the bad choices we made as a lost sinner (diseases, broken homes, financial problems, etc.).
- 2 Thessalonians 3:5** If you truly love God, you will be able to patiently wait for Christ. Most people “say” they love God, but truly they just want God to do things for them.
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- James 5:8** We must establish our heart (in a sincere desire to have a relationship with the Lord) to patiently wait for the Lord's coming. A wandering heart (a heart that wants something new every day) will never be content and never be able to patiently wait.
- James 1:2-4** You will have trials in your life as a result of sin. Thankfully, those trials are an opportunity to work patience into your life. That's how you can count a trial as joy.
- Patience will teach you not to want so many things that you think will satisfy you. Be satisfied with the Lord and your patience will make you perfect and entire, wanting nothing (vs 4). Learn to just trust God.
- Romans 5:1-5** **"Tribulation worketh patience."** How? When you go through troubles, you find out that God is always there for you even when others have left you. Your love for God helps you to patiently endure the trials.
- 1 Peter 2:20** When you take suffering patiently, and not as a result of your own misdeeds, this is acceptable with God.
- James 5:11** Job endured great trials and affliction, and he is commended for his patience.
- Job 13:15-18** Job didn't let his troubles change his course. He was determined to trust God no matter what happened to him. That's true patience.
- 2 Peter 1:3-7** If you are saved, God delivered you from the corruption in the world. Patience comes before godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. If you don't learn patience first, you will get angry with the brethren and with God find yourself back in the flesh and back to the corruption of the world.
- Impatience causes you to give up on God and trust something else. And when you turn back to a life of sin, you're telling God He's not good enough and He didn't do enough for you.
- Colossians 1:9-11** Paul prayed that the Colossian believers would be strengthened with knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual understanding. Why?
- So, they'd be able to patiently suffer long without losing their joy.
- Psalms 37:7** We must patiently rest in the Lord even when we're surrounded by wicked men. Turn off the news reports and fellowship with the Lord for peace of mind.
- Luke 21:19** You need to oversee your soul, which God saved. Determine in your heart that you are going to continue to patiently trust the Lord.
- Hebrews 12:1** We need to run our race with patience. When things don't happen as swiftly as you hoped they would, just stay in the race and keep on serving the Lord—joyfully and confidently—all the way to glory.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:14** Be patient toward all men. When someone mistreats you, they are helping you to learn patience. Be thankful.
- Psalms 40:1** **"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry."**
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