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## What's Your Hurry?

**Hebrews 10:36:** (KJV) *For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*



We are not patient. Not anymore. It used to be just a few decades ago that when you needed to talk to someone far away, you waited until the day ended, went home, had dinner and then you tried to call them. Several decades before that you thought about what you wanted to say, wrote them a letter, sent it and waited. Now we simply and instantly text them and usually get a pretty instant answer as well. Not only do we not have patience, we have a hard time teaching it to others. Our children have the privilege and problem of instant access, instant answers and instant fun which leads them to instant frustration when something does not go as expected. Patience - Jesus told us "in your patience possess ye your souls." It turns out that there is much more to that statement than meets the eye! What is the Bible's real message regarding patience for Christians?

Merriam Webster Online Dictionary: **Patient**

1. bearing pains or trials calmly or without complaint, 2. manifesting forbearance under provocation or strain, 3. not hasty or impetuous, 4. steadfast despite opposition, difficulty, or adversity, 5. able or willing to bear

In the New Testament, there are several words that have to do with patience and they can be divided into three basic approaches:

**The first approach to patience:  
To be appropriate - to not be reactive**

**Patient:** Strongs #1933 appropriate, i.e. (by implication) mild

**1 Timothy 3:3:** (KJV) *Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but **patient <1933>**, not a brawler, not covetous;*

*Patient* - calm, mild, not reactive. This is an important qualification for someone who would have a position of responsibility in the church.

**James 3:17:** (KJV) *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, **gentle <1933>**, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*

*Gentle* is the same word for patience.

**How do we become "appropriate" or "even" in our character?** **Philippians 4:4-9:** (NASB) *<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your **gentle spirit <1933>** be known to all men. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. <sup>9</sup>The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

Our appropriateness comes from our focus on that which is higher and faith in that which is mighty. Our evenness depends upon the continual resetting of what we allow our minds to dwell upon.

Godly patience is found in our choice to rejoice, the way we pray and seeking godly thinking. The world continually bombards us to take our focus off of the Lord. It is important to our Christian success to find that "reset button" for our spiritual focus.

Rejoicing is not an emotional outburst; it is a clear and focused state of being, thinking on higher things.

Patience *does* have its beginning in an even-keeled approach to life, but it certainly does NOT end there. As we will see, biblically-defined patience focuses us on managing our way through long periods of unsettled life experiences. Patience is about the long-term approach to dealing with our experiences.



**Second approach to patience:  
Defining patience as “forbearance,” the ability to hold yourself back**

Merriam Webster Online Dictionary: **forbear**

1. to do without, 2. to hold oneself back from, especially with an effort,
3. to leave alone, shun

When we look at our patience in relation to God, we have no idea what His big master plan is for us personally and how He teaches us all of the things we need to learn.

Patience as forbearance is *a chosen pattern of behavior* as we generally approach our experiences.

**Patient:** Strongs #420 enduring of ill, i.e. forbearing  
(holding yourself back, able to put up with something)

2 Timothy 2:24: (KJV) *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, **patient <420>**,*

**Patience:** Strongs #3114 to be long-spirited,  
i.e. (objectively) forbearing or (subjectively) patient

This is not teaching with arrogance; it is teaching with the student in mind. The teacher appropriately holds themselves back.

Matthew 18:26: (KJV) *The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have **patience <3114>** with me, and I will pay thee all.*

**Patience:** Strongs #3115 longanimity, i.e.  
(objectively) forbearance or (subjectively) fortitude

Longanimity means calmness in the face of suffering and adversity.

There is more to patience than just not taking action. Godly patience is to be able to be calm and rejoice under trial. I would rather react or do something else based on how I feel, but I will rejoice in the Lord always and wait on His overruling.

Holding ourselves back (self-restraint) is part of having a Christlike character.

2 Timothy 4:2: (KJV) *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all **longsuffering <3115>** and doctrine.*

The thought here is that the *patience* being defined is a willingness to be not only non-reactive and appropriate but to be willing to wait for a situation to completely unfold, to be disciplined in holding back. This “patience” gives the benefit of the doubt, and we can only display it through a humble spirit.

We still take necessary action, but we want the patience for a situation to unfold enough that we can proceed with clarity and godly thinking.

Let’s talk about the forbearance of God. The first chapter of Romans was all about blatant idolatry and sensuality. Now we drop into the second chapter...**Paul urges us to hold ourselves back from judgment without proper cause and place:** Romans 2:1-2, 4-6: God has been holding back for over 6,000+ years of the permission of evil. It is not time until sin runs its course before He brings righteous judgment to all. If He can be that patient for thousands of years, we can be patient for five more minutes!

Godly patience is developed and displayed in not merely tolerating or putting up with situations, but it is instead developed and displayed in the holding back of our reactions with godly, wise and long-term thinking.

Appropriateness and self-control are hugely important as foundation pieces for what comes next. The patience road in the Bible now turns us towards the most transformative kind of patience yet:

**The third and most common approach to patience:  
Patience is deep, sound and powerful endurance**

Patience is more than just waiting around.



**Patience:** Strong's #5281 cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy

Luke 21:19: (KJV) *In your **patience <5281>** possess ye your souls.*

**Patience:** Strong's #5278 to stay under (behind), i.e. remain; figuratively, to undergo, i.e. bear (trials), have fortitude, persevere

We can study the character of God and find what patience really means. God’s patience is more than just waiting around. He allows things to come to fulfillment. God is not happy with sin and death, but allows sin to run its course. He will intervene at the appropriate time.

James 5:11: (KJV) *Behold, we count them happy which **endure <5278>**. Ye have heard of the **patience <5281>** of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*

The *patience* being defined here is a determination to remain in a difficult position, to cheerfully endure and to have fortitude, based upon your ability to continually remind yourself of your own “deliberate purpose.” It is hard to patiently bear a trial without a purpose. This type of patience is really an extraordinary endurance that finds its courage in a crystal clear mental picture of its expectations.

This is how God can be patient for more than 6,000 years. He has a crystal clear picture of His expectation and He will wait until the appropriate time so His expectations can come to fruition.

*Our trials are lessons to teach us to be more Christlike.* They are gems we can use to improve our character and be more pleasing to our heavenly Father. Know the purpose, adopt the endurance.

**Christian examples of endurance:** Hebrews 10:32-36: The Apostle Paul is writing to the Hebrew Christians in general. *Remember the former days* - He asks them to remember the trials they had gone through before, when apparently they had endured (same word here for patience - to stay under, to have fortitude) great conflicts of suffering. *Being made a public spectacle* - “You were persecuted, made fun of, looked down upon because you were a Christian.” *Accepted joyfully the seizure of your property* - “Remember how you accepted that happening?” Surely they did not *like* the experience, but they had inner peace, a joyful attitude, knowing the Lord was working with them through this experience. They could trust Him. *Knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one* - Knowing there was more to life as a Christian than their physical property and reputation. *Therefore, do not throw away your confidence* - We can look back at our own experiences and see we had difficulty and testing before. God provided what we needed in that experience. God delivered us before; He will deliver us again. Keep the goal in mind for why you are enduring trials - *to receive what was promised.* Have that deliberate purpose in your heart and mind and it grants you the endurance to hold up.

**There are many faces of endurance:** *The face of a soldier is the face of one sworn to duty for a cause that he is willing to die for.*

2 Timothy 2:2-4: As a soldier, I am one of many who have been pressed into service to fight a common enemy alongside of others to whom I am loyal. I will protect, work for, work with and even die for my fellow soldiers. That is endurance. Soldiers are trained for a mission and accomplish it together.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5: Notice the number of times Paul says “we.” It is a mutual endurance together. We build one another up so we can stand firm under the great weight of testing necessary for a Christian. The body of Christ has the highest standard of any group ever. They strive together for heavenly glory, if faithful.

Godly patience is mastered in our mutual endurance - in the collective fight we are fellow soldiers are fighting for the sake of the Gospel. For the true Christian, endurance is just as applicable in our own personal challenges and struggles as it is when we are collectively fighting the enemy. There is no aspect or moment or experience in our lives when this life-changing endurance will not be needed. Endurance is like a glove. It is a tool that needs to become a part of us. When you put gloves on, you forget they are there. Our Christian endurance should fit like a glove.



The Christian has three enemies: The world and its influences on us, the flesh and its sinful weaknesses and the devil, who is trying to trip up every follower of Christ so they are not faithful to God.

The face of an athlete is the face of discipline and focus; it is the face of training to compete and win. 2 Timothy 2:5: “I am the one solely responsible for fulfilling my call. I must compete honestly and with all my strength, focus and endurance to be considered one who may by God’s grace, win the prize.”

**Here is a case where, as a Christian, in the end it really is all about me!**

1 Corinthians 9:24-27: *But only one receives the prize* - Look at yourself and understand the kind of endurance you must have to win the race that you individually are running. We all run for the prize of the high calling, but we cannot run for each other. We can help each other but inevitably you are responsible for your own race.

The call of Christ is so lofty and so privileged that we cannot let up in our attitude of endurance. Even Paul - who was the epitome of self-sacrifice - tells us that he needed to be ever vigilant.

**What is the difference between success and failure? The endurance and patience to always strive:** Proverbs 24:16: (NASB) *For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again, But the wicked stumble in time of calamity.*

**Our personal task of endurance can be best accomplished when we know where to look for challenges:** James 1:12-18: God *never* sets us up for failure! This is a guarantee. We do not have to be concerned with God setting us up with an experience and then forgetting about us.

We can easily set *ourselves* up for failure! This is a warning of where we need enduring vigilance. We need to make straight paths for our feet.

The utter stability of God’s character and promise guarantees our endurance can produce success! We have the ability to be successful. Godly patience is mastered in our individual, personal endurance. It is not possible to find this endurance any place else but without our own hearts and minds. God gives us grace, Christ gives us strength, but we have to use them. They will not fail us, but we can fail us. That is where our endurance must be strongest and most focused.

The face of the farmer is the face of patience, knowledge, hard work and consistency. It is the face of steady discipline and compassion. 2 Timothy 2:6-7: I am one who has been called to the completely absorbing work of planting, cultivating and harvesting the seeds of the Gospel. I must maximize the environmental circumstances in which I plant, take the best advantage of the weather conditions as they change and follow the seasons as they dictate my work. I must pay attention to what is around me to be a successful farmer.

**Our planting endurance comes into play in two areas. First, it applies to ourselves:**

James 5:7-11: We should be developing our “root system” so when those trials come we have the ability to sprout through them. We may have stretching experiences beyond our comfort zone.

**Second, it comes into play in our sowing and nurturing the seeds of the Gospel towards others:** Matthew 13:18-23

Godly patience is mastered in our every day, moment by moment opportunities, to set and reset our hearts and minds towards that which is most important rather than that which feels most pressing.

Apply patient endurance and forbearance to stand firm under trial in order to overcome those difficult experiences in our lives. The Scriptures give us lots of guidance!

*So, what’s your hurry?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*