

PATIENCE: THE KEY TO GOD'S BEST

Hebrews 6:11–12 (KJV 1900)

11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

I. INTRODUCTION:

A recent British study reveals some interesting and unsettling truths about our ability to wait: (Fall 2019)

- Respondents reported becoming frustrated after just 16 seconds of waiting for a web page to load and after 25 seconds of waiting for a traffic light to change.
- It only takes 22 seconds for people to start cursing their computers or TVs if a show or movie doesn't immediately start streaming correctly.
- Surveyed Brits also reported losing their cool after just 18 seconds of searching for a pen.
- Furthermore, if a phone takes longer than 11 minutes of charging to turn on, that's "too long."
- Waiting in line seemed to especially annoy respondents, with 45% admitting they had lost their temper after waiting an "excessive" amount of time. But, what exactly is excessive? Respondents said just 30 seconds of waiting in a line would be enough to try their patience, and half said they are likely to switch to a different line if the one they are in isn't moving fast enough.

Lack of patience is responsible many of our regrets, challenges, and problems in life.

- Moses lacked patience and smote an Egyptian
- Abraham lacked patience and produced Ishmael
- Saul lacked patience in not waiting for Samuel

PATIENCE IS ESSENTIAL TO EXPERIENCING GOD'S BEST IN YOUR LIFE AND IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS.

Do you consider yourself a patient person?

Patience affects everything we do.

Psalm 37:7a (KJV 1900)

7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: Fret not thyself...

Psalm 40:1 (KJV 1900)

1 I waited patiently for the LORD; And he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

Psalm 62:5 (NKJV)

5 My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him.

HOW DO WE DEFINE PATIENCE?

- Quiet, uncomplaining, endurance under stress or an annoyance.
- Patience is the will to wait!

Do we calmly, tolerate delay in our lives?

When we come to God in prayer or with a desire and God does not respond to our sense of urgency, will we accept that quietly and without complaint?

Most people do not want to wait. We acknowledge that God is omniscient (knows all about us, and knows what is best for us), is omnipresent, is omnipotent, and that He loves us.

Yet when God asks us to wait, we do not want to.

God knows that at certain times in our lives certain things don't fit. God has a sense of timing that seldom matches ours.

- Abraham waited 25 years in his old age for a son.
- Joseph had to wait 13 years in slavery and 22 years total for his dream to come to pass.
- Moses had to wait 40 years in the wilderness.
- David waited for Saul to die to take his right place on the throne.

God's promises have a time associated with them:

Acts 7:17 (NKJV)

17 "But when the time of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt

"The right thing at the wrong time is the wrong thing"

Patience is the will to wait! It is bringing our timetable into harmony with His timetable.

Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Waiting is both an action and an attitude.

EXPOSITION:

Hebrews 6:11–12 (KJV 1900)

11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 10:36 (KJV 1900)

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Patience is not slothfulness. On the contrary, we are to be diligent while we wait.

How are we to be diligent while we wait?

- a. Diligent in the revealed will of God.
- b. Diligent in the general will of God.
- c. Diligent in daily seeking His lordship and leadership.

After we have done the revealed will of God, we must be patient for the promise.

Time spent waiting is never time wasted! Relationships heal and grow when we wait. Our walk with God becomes fruitful and our character is built. We find strength and refuge in the waiting.

I. PATIENCE IS ESSENTIAL FOR SPIRITUAL FRUITFULNESS

Luke 8:15 (NKJV)

15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Much of the Christian life is an exercise in cultivation on fabrication.

Cultivate = to create an environment for and foster the growth of crops!

James 5:7–8 (NKJV)

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Galatians 6:9 (KJV 1900)

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Fruitfulness (i.e. fulfillment is contingent upon our patience)

II. PATIENCE IS ESSENTIAL IN HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are organic and must be cultivated.

Because relationships are organic they cannot be manufactured.

We often make the mistake of trying to manufacture what can only be cultivated.

- Friendships
- Marriages
- Mentors
- Walk with God

a. Patient in listening: (To God and others)

James 1:19 (KJV 1900)

19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

b. Patient in drawing conclusions:

Proverbs 18:13 (KJV 1900)

13 He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, It is folly and shame unto him.

c. Patient with their short comings:

Ephesians 4:2 (NKJV)

2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

III. PATIENCE IS ESSENTIAL TO BUILDING CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Romans 5:3–5 (NKJV)

3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

James 1:3–4 (KJV 1900)

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Through patience we are perfected.

Luke 21:19 (KJV 1900)

19 In your patience possess ye your souls.

IV. THINGS NEEDED TO WALK IN PATIENCE:**1. PATIENCE IS A PRODUCT OF TRUST:**

We must believe that God will direct our lives. “No” and “wait” are expressions of God’s love.

When God says “no” or “wait” it is an act of protection not rejection.

Psalms 28:7 (NKJV)

7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.

We should ask ourselves the question; whose job is it to promote me and protect me? Is it mine or God’s? Who do I trust with my happiness and future?

2. PATIENCE IS THE PRODUCT OF AN OBEDIENT SPIRIT:

Sometimes it takes as much obedience to refuse action as it does to take action.

3. PATIENCE REQUIRES A DISCERNMENT OF GOD’S TIMING:

God doesn’t owe us a “no” only a “yes”. Seek God’s wisdom.

James 1:4–5 (NKJV)

4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

4. PATIENCE REQUIRES A LOVE FOR GOD:

If I love other things more than God, I will seek first to satisfy myself.

Love constrains us to wait! (e.g. Jacob waiting for Rachel)

Genesis 29:18–20 (NKJV)

18 Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter.”

19 And Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me.”

20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her.

5. PATIENCE REQUIRES COURAGE:

It takes courage to go right to the edge.

Psalms 27:14 (KJV 1900)

14 Wait on the LORD: Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: Wait, I say, on the LORD.

We are not talking about Paralysis we are talking about Patience.

6. PATIENCE IS A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:

Galatians 5:22–24 (NASB95)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Patience is not something you work up on your own. It is a fruit of the Spirit and quality of God that can be manifest in us.

Patience is a function of the Spirit. Un-crucified flesh is always impatient. When we crucify our flesh, with its selfish desires, passions, timetables, expectations and agendas we free the Spirit of God to manifest in our life.

V. CONCLUSION:

Practically speaking, what can we do?

a. We should practice patience

We cannot expect to have patience in areas of great passion, if we will not practice patience in the little areas of our lives.

b. We should pray for patience

If you are like me, you have probably heard people say that we are not supposed to pray for patience. Patience is a virtue and a fruit of the Spirit, we should pray for it.

Psalm 62:5–8 (NKJV)

5 My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him.

6 He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved.

7 In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God.

8 Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah