



Patience

JAMES 5:7-12

Summary on “Patience”

- ▶ What is patience?
- ▶ What are the different varieties of patience?
- ▶ Why is patience so difficult at times?
- ▶ **How is the virtue of patience developed?**

What is patience?

- ▶ **Patience** is “the quality of enduring pain, hardship, provocation, or annoyance with calmness”. Calm willingness to tolerate delay.
- ▶ **Perseverance** is “steady persistence in adhering to a course of action, a belief, or a purpose; steadfastness.”
- ▶ **Endurance** is “the act, quality, or power of withstanding hardship or stress.”
- ▶ “**Long-suffering**” – is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it’s the opposite of anger, and is associated with mercy, and is used of G

Did you know that Patience and Gentleness are closely associated virtues?

- ▶ **Phil 4:5** “Let your gentleness be evident to all”
- ▶ To be gentle is to even-tempered, humble and compassionate towards others. It means keeping our emotions in check and staying calm even in the most difficult situations. It takes great spiritual strength to remain gentle and quiet on the inside even in the midst of pressure and turmoil outside.
- ▶ A gentle person doesn't stir up drama, point out other's mistakes, but is considerate of the needs of others and makes allowance for their mistakes, and gives them the benefit of the doubt.
- ▶ They don't want to have the last word and are not afraid to admit they are wrong.



How is the virtue of patience developed?

JAMES 5:7-12

#1: Patience is the fruit of the spirit

- ▶ Since patience (or longsuffering) is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, it goes without saying that we must cooperate with the Holy Spirit to develop patience in us.
- ▶ It's an "inside job" once you are saved and are walking in the spirit. **Galatians 5:22** (Makrothumia – Greek for "long & temper").
- ▶ The more you "know God personally", not just "know of God", the more you become patient because of the Holy spirit's presence. Jesus told us that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth (**John 16:13**). The Holy Spirit will remind us of all the Lord Jesus said (**John 14:26**).

#2: You learn patience from what you suffer or experience.

- ▶ Trials develop patience. If there is no test, there is no real patience.
- ▶ **Heb 5:7-9** Jesus learnt obedience from what He suffered – even though He was the Son of God...
- ▶ **James 1:2-4** *"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."* **Rom 5:3-5**
- ▶ Job endured the loss of his possessions, his children, his health, and his wife's support, but he took it patiently. **Job 2:9-10** Job knew God had control over his situation and his suffering. He had the patience to wait for the unfolding of God's plan, going so far as to say, "Though he slay me, I will hope in him" (**Job 13:15**).

Learn to look at the ultimate model of a patient man - the Lord Jesus Christ.

- ▶ Patience is “part of our calling as Christians.” There is a heavenly purpose for patience.
- ▶ **Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:20-24; 2 Tim 3:12**
- ▶ "What did Christ's patient suffering produce?"
- ▶ Persecution can affect a Christian's feelings or his family, reputation, property, liberty or influence. It may deprive him of an office or position he held or prevent him from obtaining one for which he is qualified. He could be subjected to a fine, imprisonment, banishment, torture or death. Every experience has a purpose.

Patience and experience...

- ▶ It's been said that nothing teaches like experience. (James 1:2-4).
- ▶ Misfortunes are designed to build virtue in us, and among the virtues gained through difficulty is patience.
- ▶ “Pampered bodies grow sluggish through sloth; not work but movement and their own weight exhausts them. Prosperity unbruised cannot endure a single blow, but a man who has been at a constant feud with misfortunes acquires skin calloused by suffering; he yields to no evil and even if he stumbles carries the fight on upon his knee”.
- ▶ We get tested everyday in the area of our strength, our weakness or pride. See **Moses** who was the meekest (most patient) man on earth – he failed in the area of his greatest strength.

#3: **Waiting** on God helps develop patience. Patience is often linked with **hope**.

- ▶ Patience is often linked with **hope**. If there is no hope that our situation will change, then there is no incentive to endure suffering and no power for patience. **Rom 5:3-5**
- ▶ The Bible speaks of two kinds of hope when it comes to patience:
 - ▶ The hope of fulfillment—that is, the expectation that God will come through on His promises.
 - ▶ The hope of deliverance—that is, the expectation that God will rescue us from our sufferings, that there will be a Day of Judgment when evil is punished, and justice is done.
- ▶ **Rom 8:25; Heb 10:36; 2 Cor 4:17** – We all need to learn to wait on God

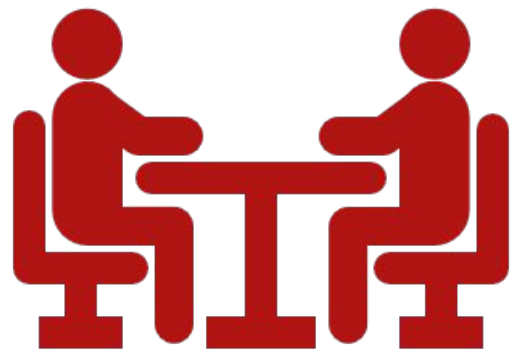
#4: Train yourself to overlook wrong.

We have to work out conflicts with others.

- ▶ Jesus learnt obedience in what He suffered – even though He was God **Heb 12:3; 1 Pet 2:23**. So we also must learn this virtue – **Col 3:12-13**;
- ▶ **Romans 12:18** *"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men"*.
- ▶ **Prov 19:11** *"The discretion of a man deferred his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression"*
- ▶ **Prov 12:16** – *"Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult"*
- ▶ **Prov 14:29** – *"Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly"*
- ▶ **Prov 15:18** - *"A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel."*

#5: Learn to stay focused on the ultimate goal.

- ▶ **When you start anything, pray for grace to complete it.**
- ▶ **James 5:7-8** 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. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
- ▶ **Habakkuk 2:3** For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.



We must learn
to think before
speaking or
acting!

JAMES 1:19

Lessons from James 5:7-12

We need patience when we face difficulty

- ▶ **Lesson 1** – “See how the farmer waits” – **James 5:7**: the believer who is facing hostility must demonstrate a willingness to wait for vindication – like a farmer waits for the rain, we have to learn to wait for the Lord’s return or intervention and not get upset with difficult circumstances. **Heb 6:15**
- ▶ **Lesson 2** – **James 5:8**: This waiting is not to be passive (just sitting around waiting for God to intervene) – but we need to strengthen and make firm our inner lives while waiting. **2 Cor 6:3-13**

We need patience when we face disappointment

- ▶ **James 5:9** - When we are disappointed, we often grumble or complain or lash out at others because of what we are dealing with (read other bible translations). It is easier to complain about the role others have played or not played when we face disappointment. We all know how to blame.
- ▶ **Lesson:** James is talking about how we are to act when we are facing difficulty or disappointing situations. When we blame, it shows we are not depending on God, but others around us. **Lev 19:18; Matt 6:14**

We need patience when we face disapproval or condemnation

- ▶ See the examples of those who faced disapproval in the bible, so you do not lose heart. **James 5:10-11 - Job; David and Saul; Moses and Israel**
- ▶ **Lesson:** The prophets suffered not because they did wrong but because they were doing right. They were disapproved by their people and persecuted for their testimony. At times you may suffer not because you have done anything wrong to deserve it, but God wants you to endure.
- ▶ **James 1:6-7; 4:12-13; Matt 5:10-12; Acts 7:52**
- ▶ **Trials produce durability and maturity**

We need patience when we face disaster

- ▶ Hupomeno in Greek means “steadfast endurance.” See Job’s example **James 5:11**
- ▶ Longsuffering (makrothumia) usually describes the attitude that a person manifests when pressured by other people; while patience (hupomena) usually denotes the response to circumstances.
- ▶ See Job’s reaction to multiple negative reports in **1:14-19; 19:25-27; 42:5-6, 10-13; James 1:4**

We need patience when we face dishonesty

- ▶ **James 5:12; Matt 5:33-37; 23:16-22**
- ▶ People are dishonest today. They lie to you and don't keep promises and expect you to still stay there waiting on them.
- ▶ How do deal with people who swear an oath and don't keep it?