

**“ADD PATIENCE”
2 Peter 1:5-11**

Introduction:

1. King Solomon wrote:

“The end of a thing is better than its beginning. The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit” (Ecclesiastes 7:8).

2. Shakespeare said: “How poor are they that have not patience! What wound did ever heal but by degrees?”

3. William Pitt, who served as Prime Minister of England, was asked three qualifications for being Prime Minister; he replied: “The first is patience. The second is patience; the third is patience.”

4. Vaughn Monroe, a popular singer in the 1950’s, observed: “This would be a fine world if men showed as much patience all the time as they do while they are waiting for a fish to bite.”

5. An old Dutch proverb says: “A handful of patience is worth more than a bushel of brains.”

6. Patience is a virtue that few possess but all need.

Discussion:

I. WHAT IS PATIENCE?

A. The dictionary says patience is “bearing pain or trials calmly or without complaint; manifesting forbearance under provocation or strain; not hasty or impetuous; steadfast despite opposition, difficulty, or adversity; able and willing to bear difficulties.”

B. Two different Greek words are translated as “patience, longsuffering, and endurance” in the New Testament.

1. Hupomone is “patient endurance, a patient frame of mind, perseverance; endurance in holding to an object, belief.”

2. **Makrothumia is often translated as “longsuffering;” it is endurance, steadfastness or perseverance.”**

C. Christians are commanded to be patient.

1. **We must “add perseverance (patience) to self-control” (2 Peter 1:6).**
2. **We must “pursue patience” (1 Timothy 6:11).**
3. **We must “run with endurance (patience) the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).**

D. Bible examples show us what patience is.

1. **Our God is “longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).**
2. **Jesus is patient for He “endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2).**
3. **The prophets were patient: “My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience” (James 5:10).**
4. **Job’s name is synonymous with patience in suffering: “Indeed, we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance {patience} of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord - that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful” (James 5:11).**

II. WITH WHOM SHOULD WE SHOW PATIENCE?

A. We must be patient with ourselves.

1. **We may become discouraged with our spiritual growth.**
2. **Just as it takes time to grow to physical maturity, it also takes time to grow to spiritual maturity (2 Peter 3:18).**

B. We must be patient with family members.

1. **Husbands and wives ought to be patient with one another.**

2. **Parents ought to be patient with their children.**

**Lord, give me patience when little hands,
Tug at me with ceaseless demands.
Lord, give me gentle words and smiling eyes,
And keep my lips from hasty, sharp replies.
Lord, let me not in weariness, confusion and noise,
Obscure my vision from life's fleeting joys.
When in years to come, my house is still,
Only happy memories its rooms may fill.**

3. **The younger must also be patient with the elderly.**

C. We must be patient in sowing the seed of the kingdom.

1. **We studied with an SDA family in Zambia and gave up; a year later we visited the church in their area and found they had all obeyed the Gospel.**
2. **A sister in New Zealand remembered me from knocking on her door in Sydney, Australia 30 years before.**
3. **We must sow the seed, but God gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6).**
4. **“You can't plant corn in the morning and expect to eat corn on the cob for supper that evening.”**

III. WHEN SHOULD WE BE PATIENT?

A. We should be patient (persevere, endure) in persecution.

1. **Persecution will come to faithful Christians (2 Tim. 3:12).**
2. **Jesus said we are blessed when we are “persecuted for righteousness' sake” (Matthew 5:10-12).**
 - a. **The kingdom of Heaven is ours.**
 - b. **Our reward is great in Heaven.**
 - c. **We are in good company for the prophets were also persecuted.**

B. We should patient in the trials of life.

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience” (James 1:2,3).

C. We should be patient in our prayers.

- 1. God does not always answer our prayers immediately.**
- 2. It may not be the best time to grant our petition.**
- 3. God’s delays are not necessarily denials.**
- 4. David said: “I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry” (Psalm 40:1).**

D. We should wait patiently for the coming of the Lord.

- 1. The Thessalonian Christians misunderstood the second coming of the Lord.**
 - a. They interpreted the sudden and unexpected nature of His coming to mean it would be immediate (2 Thessalonians 2).**
 - b. Some had even quit working in anticipation of it (2 Thessalonians 3:6-12).**
- 2. We live in hope, but “hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance {patience} (Romans 8:24,25).**

Conclusion:

- 1. It is “through faith and patience that we inherit God’s promises” (Hebrews 6:12).**
- 2. Eternal life will be given to “those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality” (Romans 2:7).**
- 3. Therefore, “Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart” (Galatians 6:9).**
- 4. Have you laid hold on eternal life by obeying the Gospel?**

