

LONGSUFFERING (PATIENCE)

(Foundation Scriptures)

1. "But the fruit of the Sprit is longsuffering." (Galatians 5:22)
2. "Add to your faith, patience." (II Peter 1:5,6)
3. "That you be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (Hebrews 6:12)
4. "Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near." (James 5:7,8)
5. "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:1)
6. "Be patient toward all men." (I Thessalonians 5:14)
7. "You have fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, and patience." (II Timothy 3:10)
8. "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him." (Psalm 37:7)
9. "Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love." (Ephesians 4:1,2)
10. "Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness." (Colossians 1:11)

WHAT IS PATIENCE?

Patience

(HUPOMONE) means:

To continue	To tarry
To stay	To wait
To remain	To persevere
To abide	

Longsuffering

(MAKROTHUMIA) means:

Forbearance	To be long tempered
Fortitude	To patiently endure
Patience	To bear long
To suffer long under adversity without breaking down	

LONGSUFFERING (Patience) is...

1. The power to suffer long under adversity.
2. The ability to bear with difficult people or adverse circumstances without breaking down under pressure.
3. Tolerance for the intolerable.
4. A willingness to understand and receive the awkward people and events that our Heavenly Father allows to come our way.

5. That quality that keeps us steadfast under straining situations.
6. Enduring hardships patiently for the benefit it may bring to another
7. To “keep on keeping on” in spite of all obstacles.

WHY IS PATIENCE SO IMPORTANT?

“My brethren, count it all joy when we fall into various temptations (testings); knowing this that the trying of your faith works patience; but let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” (James 1:2-4)

- ◆ To “let patience have her perfect work” means to continue faithful and do not run from difficulty.

WHAT’S THE RESULT OF PATIENCE? (James 1:4)

“That you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

1. Perfect (TELEIOS) – Mature and growth in character
2. Entire (HOLOKLEROS) – Whole, complete and perfectly sound.
3. Wanting nothing (LEIPE MEDEN) – No lack of anything (content)

Yes, Yes, Yes...

...Patience will result in experience (Romans 5:4) which means;
“Character that has been tried and proven.”

Our Natural Tendency... Is to run, rebel or exit when tested.
Many look for greener grass elsewhere.
Many fail to allow patience to work.
Many forget, and fail to remember the reward of patience

Our Spiritual Tendency... Must be to see the reward of patiently enduring.
Must be to look beyond the present time.
Must be to allow our patience to produce Godly character.

HOW IS PATIENCE DEVELOPED?

“Adversity produces perseverance.” (Romans 5:3)

“The trying (testing) of our faith produces steadfastness.” (James 1:3)

- ◆ The Lord says, “Trials ripen the fruit of patience.” (ouch!)
- ◆ God will bring people and situations into our path that are tailor made for us.
- ◆ He knows exactly what we need.

THE GOOD RESULTS OF A PATIENT SPIRIT:

1. We learn not to resent difficult people and circumstances, but realize that God allows them for our benefit.

2. We learn how to respond (not react) God's way, and not be harsh, complaining and exhibit self-pity.
3. We learn not to look for the exit signs and run from our tough times (moving on is easy – patiently enduring is godly).
4. We learn how to pray for those whom God is using to send off the rough edges and purify our character.
5. We learn how to persevere and wait in prayer, "I waited patiently for the Lord and He inclined unto me and heard my cry." (Psalm 40:1) Patience pays big dividends!
6. We learn that God isn't rushed and in a hurry, "Now the God of patience" (Romans 15:5)
7. We learn to "rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him." (Psalm 37:7)

PLACES WHERE GOD DEVELOPS PATIENCE

1. In your life; as God prunes away the things that are not an expression of His nature in you.
2. In your home; with your spouse, children, parents, in-laws, etc.
3. On your job; with an employer or fellow employee.
4. In your church; with newborn babes who are maturing but still young in the Lord. (Maybe with imperfect older Christians as well.)
5. In relationships; with a friend or foe. (At restaurants, grocery stores, Post Office, bank lines, red lights, traffic jams, gas stations, etc.)

"But the Fruit of the Spirit is...PATIENCE"