

PATIENCE

*The key to everything is patience.
You get the chicken by hatching the egg,
not by smashing it....Various authors*

As I looked to start this section of the homework with a quote, this one just jumped out at me. It is silly yet so true!! How often in life we deal with our need for patience. From waiting in the express line at the grocery store behind that person who clearly can't count correctly, to awaiting laboratory results that can bring joy or dread, to raising young children or dealing with coworkers; we all have tests of our patience daily. How often we feel frustrated and ashamed at how easily we can lose our cool, fret over inconveniences or even act unkindly as our storehouse of patience seems inadequate for the trials of life.

Like the other fruits we have discussed so far, patience is often seen and expressed in the context of interpersonal relationships. If we all lived alone in a mountain cottage overlooking a calming vista with our Bible and enough money to live on, we might really believe that we are quite full of patience. But in the reality of day to day life and all its many bumps, turns and surprises, we find that human patience is *clearly **NOT** enough*. We desperately need the Holy Spirit to grow this beautiful fruit in us, so we might glorify the Lord and be a blessing to the world around us.

Let's start with our monthly exercise of defining Patience:

Antonyms to Patience are:

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Synonyms to Patience are:

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As we have discussed before, we often see in Scripture varying words in the original Greek and Hebrew languages that give us some better understanding of the nuances of an English translation. Let's look at some Greek words for PATIENCE.

The first Greek word we will look at is **Hupomone** (*hoop-om-on-ay*)

Hupomone refers to cheerful endurance, and constancy. The two roots hupo and mone literally mean “**an abiding under**”.

Mmmmmm interesting.....We will come back to that later. 😊

Here are a few verses where the Greek word **Hupomone** is translated as patience. Look each one up and in your own words summarize what it says about the development of patience and/or what *patience* brings to the life of the believer:

(**hupomone** may be translated as perseverance in some translations)

Romans 5:1-4

James 1:2-4

2 Peter 1: 5-8

We could never learn to be brave and patient, if there were only joy in the world.

- *Helen Keller*

What then are we to do about our problems? We must learn to live with them until such time as God delivers us from them. We must pray for grace to endure them without murmuring. Problems patiently endured will work for our spiritual perfecting. They harm us only when we resist them or endure them unwillingly

- *A. W. Tozer*

How do the above quotes echo the wisdom you found in the Scriptures you summarized?

Think of a situation in your life that is testing your patience right now.

≈ What is it?

≈ Why is it hard to be patient? (be honest)

≈ What might God be looking to show you during this trial about....

- Who He Is?

- Who you are?

- Where your confidence truly lies?

It has been said **God is not in a hurry**. Oh, how true!! Yet often *we are*. We want to jump in, act, make things happen. I know that is my fleshly temperament's tendency. An account that helps me be inspired to trust God's timing is found in the book of Esther. Turn in your Bible and reacquaint yourself with this godly woman's example.

If you are completely new to Esther's story, carve out time today to read from Chapter 1 to 8. For our purposes we will focus on the point in the narrative where Esther has been informed by her cousin Mordecai about the sinister plot to exterminate all the Jews in the kingdom. Esther is understandably hesitant to approach the King without being bidden, but with prayer support she purposes in her heart to step out in faith to the role God has for her. Answer the following questions based on Chapters 4 through 7.

Chapter 4

What was Esther's original reaction to Mordecai's suggestion that she approach her husband the king? V. 11

What part of Mordecai's response do you think encouraged Esther to act?

What does Esther do to prepare herself for the task at hand?

Would you have been tempted to quickly approach the king and be done with it?

Do you think Esther may have felt that if she didn't act right away things may have gotten out of control for her people?

What might have been key in helping settle her heart and wait on God's best timing?

Chapter 5

How did the audience with the King go for Esther?

At the first banquet, what or Who may have restrained Esther from rushing in at this time with her entreaty for her people's safety and deliverance?

Chapter 6 and 7

What happened that night with the King (after the first banquet with Esher)?

What part of the chronicles did the King just happen to hear read that night?

What was Haman forced to do?

How was the second banquet perfectly timed for all that Esther revealed?

What might have been the end of the story if Esther had not exercised patience in her dealings with the situation at hand?

**Being in submission to God's timing is a key part of patience.
Often exercising patience is a matter of *trusting* God's perfect timing in the
situations of life. If we believe that God is truly sovereign, then we
don't have to act out of impatience in our lives.
Queen Esther seems to have known that truth,
she walked in that truth and it made all the difference to her people.
May the same be said of us. Amen!**

Better the end of a matter than its beginning. Better a patient spirit than a proud

one. Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger settles in the bosom of fools. Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not from wisdom that you ask about this. Wisdom is as good as an inheritance, and even better for those who see the sun. For wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: wisdom preserves the life of the one who possesses it. Consider the work of God, for who can straighten what He has bent? In a time of prosperity, prosper! But in a time of adversity, consider: God has made one as well as the other. Therefore man cannot discover anything about his future. (Ecclesiastes 7:8-14)

In this portion of Scripture what other virtue is linked with patience?

Look back at James 1:2-4 and then read v. 5 as well. What does James say that we might need to ask for in order to let patience do a perfecting work in us?

Who is the source of all Wisdom and Knowledge? (see Colossians 2:2-3)

As we study Our God and behold all He is and How He works, we gain a heart of wisdom and knowledge. This in turn will help us to walk patiently through the "various trials" of life.

Having *knowledge about God and wisdom from God* will cause us to be willing to submit or "ABIDE UNDER" (hupomone) God's Perfect Timingwhich is *the definition of PATIENCE*.

Are you willing to "abide under" God's timing and sovereignty in the situation you identified on the previous page, knowing that He is doing a good work in and through you?

Are you on the lookout for the lessons He has prepared for you during this time of waiting and enduring?

Write a prayer or supplication, asking the Lord to show you all He has for you during this time of patient endurance. Ask Him to have His perfect work in you and those you love during this season of waiting.



GOING DEEPER

Another version of the word Patience in the Scripture is “makrothumia” which means longanimity (willingness to endure injuries patiently), longsuffering or forbearance.

It is this Greek word that is used in the Galatians text on the fruit of the Spirit.

Please take some time reading the Scriptures on the following page.

- ≈ **Circle the word patience or longsuffering.**
- ≈ **Highlight the person that is exercising this virtue.**
- ≈ **Underline the recipient of this virtue.**

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? [Romans 2:4](#)

This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. [1 Timothy 1:15-16](#)

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. [1Pe 3:18-20](#)

The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

[\(2 Peter 3:9\)](#)

As you can see we have all been recipients of Almighty God's
LONGSUFFERING AND PATIENCE.

Now look up these verses and see **who is exhorted** to practice this virtue of LONGSUFFERING with others. Write the name of the one to who this is commanded in the line at the bottom of this page.

Ephesians 4:1-3

Colossians 3: 12-14

If we will let the Holy Spirit do His work in us; we can find the bushels of Patience that we need to fulfill the commands of the Word of God. The fruits of the Spirit become evident in us through a daily yielding to His teaching and to His refining work in us. Our Sovereign and ALL KNOWING GOD is using the trials, the difficulties, the waiting, the frustrations, the hard stuff of this life to work this beautiful virtue into the garden of our lives.

In closing complete the following verse by looking it up and filling in the blanks. And Be encouraged beloved,
GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.
MY DEAR SISTER, KEEP PERSEVERING IN PATIENCE!!!!!!

Hebrews 6:10-15 For God *is* not _____ to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

(11) And we desire that each one of you show the same _____ to the full _____ until the end,

(12) that you do not become sluggish, but _____ those who through _____ and _____ inherit the _____.

(13) For when God made a _____ to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

(14) saying, "SURELY BLESSING I WILL _____ YOU, AND MULTIPLYING I WILL _____ YOU."

(15) And so, after he had _____ endured, he _____ the _____.