

“PATIENCE”

Who Am I Becoming?—Part 6

Proverbs 14:29

Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.

—Proverbs 14:29 (NIV)

From this, you can draw a couple of great conclusions:

- Patience = **Wisdom**
- Impatience = **Foolishness**

Key Question: How does God provide the help I need to deal with stress?

1. By **Example**

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

—2 Peter 3:9

But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

—Psalm 86:15

If God is patient **with me**, then I can be patient **with others**.

The patience we receive with **gratitude** from God, can produce in us an **attitude** of patience toward others.

2. By **Empowerment**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

—Galatians 5:22–23

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

—James 1:2–4

Patience is something that is “**slow-aged**” to maturity. It takes **patience** to produce **patience**.

3. By Encouragement

Encouragement comes from God's **Word** and God's **people**.

Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him.
—Isaiah 30:18 (NKJV)

Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.
—Isaiah 40:31

Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.
—Psalm 37:7

Do you know who else can give words of encouragement? **You!**

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
—Ephesians 4:1–3

Patience demands that we sacrifice the self-importance of our own personal agendas, not just for the sake of **others**, but for the sake of **our own souls**.

Encouragement given by you means **more than you know**.

Key Idea: I am slow to anger and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. We count those blessed who endured.

You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

—James 5:7–11

When is extra patience required?

1. When circumstances are **uncontrollable**
2. When people are **unchangeable**
3. When problems are **unexplainable**

Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

—Hebrews 10:35–36

Key Application: What difference does this make in the way I live?

God is not bound by **our time** or **circumstances**.

1. Slow down

We're running through life at **race pace**, and if anything causes us to slow our sprinting to a jog, we **freak out**.

This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

—James 1:19–20

A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, But the slow to anger calms a dispute.

—Proverbs 15:18

Slowing down our lives slows down **the boil** even when the **flames are high**.

Slowing down allows us to see what God has given us. Slowing down allows us time to give to others. Slowing down closes the gap between where we are and where God wants us to be, and gives Him time to develop compassion, mercy, and love for others in us.

2. **Keep moving**

It's God's love that will help you keep going. His love *for you* is the foundation for all of your life. His love *in you* is meant to be directed to those around you. His love for us and in us is what enables us to endure.

[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

—1 Corinthians 13:7

We usually want the **quickest** result, but God wants the **best** result.

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

—James 1:12

Whatever you do, just don't look back.
Cause somebody needs the light you have.
Whatever you do, just don't lose heart.
Keep on pushing back the dark,
Keep on pushing back the dark
—Josh Wilson, "Pushing Back the Dark"

What are you missing that God wants to grow to maturity in your life because you are too impatient to wait for it?

"Patience"—Part 6 of a series titled, "Who Am I Becoming?"

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All verses from the New American Standard unless otherwise noted.