

GOD GIVE ME PATIENCE - NOW!!



Hebrews 10:36 -- For you have need of patience, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Introduction

1. Patience is one of those traits of character that all desire and few possess. A lady once asked a preacher to preach on patience. Then she added, "Please preach about it soon, I can't wait."
2. For those who want to hear about patience quickly, the following lesson is submitted. (I even kept the introduction short).

A. The Need of Patience

1. In the quest as a Christian to become God-like, there is the need to acquire the quality of patience. God is extremely patient. He has to be to put up with all our shenanigans. In the same vein, we too will need to develop patience to put up with the world around us and even with ourselves.
2. In other words, we all need patience.

2 Peter 1:4-7 -- For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in you faith supply moral excellence... knowledge... self-control... perseverance... godliness... brotherly kindness... love.

Hebrews 10:36 -- You have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

B. The Meaning of Patience

1. The Greek word *hupomone*, translated as "patience" into English, is a compound word meaning "under" [*hupo*] plus "to abide" [*meno*]. It therefore expresses the ability "to bear up under", or as some of your translations have, "endure."
2. The stress is upon the fact that love "beareth all things." This characteristic of love is patience.

1 Corinthians 13:7 -- Bearing all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

3. Patience, however, is not just passive submission and indifference to whatever is happening to you. It is steadfast endurance and triumphant trust, the ability to take any event, problem, circumstance or tribulation and figure out how to use it to your benefit. It is a working away at and through a task, growing by it, and seeing it through to the end.

Matthew 10:22 -- And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

4. Jesus is the perfect example of this very thing. In the moment when His enemies had Him thoroughly defeated, He used His very execution to become exalted by the Father and to save all those who love Him.

Hebrews 12:2 -- Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

5. Paul prayed that Christians might be directed into the patience of Christ.
2 Thessalonians 3:5 -- And may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.
6. Patience is not a segment of one's character; it is a spirit pervading every fiber of one's disposition. Longfellow once said, "Let us then, be up and doing, with a heart for any fate; still achieving, still pursuing, learn to labor and to wait."

C. The Apostles Had Patience

1. Paul said he was a minister of Christ marked by this quality.
2 Corinthians 6:3-4 -- ...that the ministry be not discredited, but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance,..
2. He said it was a quality needed for service to his brethren and also needed because of his brethren.
2 Timothy 2:10 -- For this reason I endured all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.
3. Paul, therefore, did not cease to pray that all might be strengthened with all power for this very quality.
Colossians 1:9-11 -- For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you... that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord... strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously.

D. The Difficulty of Patience

1. Patience is difficult to gain and hard to maintain. But it can be learned! Notice the importance of Peter's statement.
1 Peter 2:20 -- For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.
2. The Bible speaks of the patience of Job, but someone has suggested the "even Job with his boils must have scratched a little!" Patience is not easy for anyone.
James 5:11 -- Behold, we count those as 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.

E. How to Develop Patience

1. Patience is consciously developed as any other quality of character. It comes from enduring trials.
James 1:2-3 -- Consider it all joy, my brethren when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
Romans 5:3 -- And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance...
2. Like swimming, it is most practical to just jump in and start working at it. But there is much to be drawn from examples and study too. Paul speaks of the "patience and comfort of the Scriptures" (Romans 15:4).
3. Consider carefully the following verses:
Revelation 1:9 -- I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus...
1 Thessalonians 1:3 -- Constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ...

F. The Reward of Patience

1. There is much personal gain from the development of patience. As James puts it:
James 1:4 -- And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
2. ...and the added benefit of saving your own souls.
Luke 21:19 -- By your endurance you will gain your lives.
3. The Chinese have a proverb that goes: "Patience for the moment, comfort for ten years. The Psalmist put it another way:
Psalms 40:1-2 -- I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay; and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.