

THE PATIENCE OF THE SAINTS

Learning to Wait

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).

Patience – What Is It?

Patience is the evidence of covenant-faith. Even when confronted by trials and irritations, people of patience will not take matters into their own hands, but they will patiently wait on God to work things out according to His wisdom, love, and justice.

Patience: accepting a difficult situation without giving God a deadline to remove it.

Patience is that steadfast endurance which under tribulation and trial never gives up, but rather trusts that all the details of our lives are in the hands of our loving Heavenly Father.

A pearl is a garment of patience enclosing an annoyance.

Patience Discerns God’s Purpose in All Trials

To patiently endure trials is God’s fast-track to perfection. *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience, but let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing”*.(James 1:2-4 NKJV). Patience looks beyond the irritation of the trial to God’s ultimate purpose that *“when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.”*(Job. 23:10 NKJV) *“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him”* (James 1:12).

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Romans 5:1-4).

Patience disciplines us to wait on the Lord for the fulfillment of His promises. Never become irritable while waiting; if you are patient, you’ll find that you can wait much faster.

The Patience of the Saints is Learning to Wait

Waiting on the Lord is never a waste of time. In God’s waiting room we discover the incredible power of faith while waiting. All the giants of Scripture had to spend time in God’s waiting room.

Contentment, not a grasping covetousness, is the key to unlock the promise – *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”* (Philippians 4:13). The reason Paul could say this was because he had learned *“in whatever state I am to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and suffer need”* (Philippians 4:11,12).

“The times we find ourselves having to wait on others may be the perfect opportunities to train ourselves to wait on the Lord.” - Joni Eareckson Tada

Eight things to do while in God’s waiting room - from Psalm 37

- **Do not Fret.** *“Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb”* (37:1,2)
- **Trust in the Lord.** *“Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness”* (37:3).
- **Delight yourself in God.** *“Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”* (37:4).
- **Commit Your Way to God.** *“Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday”* (37:5,6).

- **Rest in the Lord.** *“Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of Him who prospers in the way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.” (37:7).*
- **Let Go of Anger:** *“Cease from anger and forsake wrath; do not fret – it only causes harm” (37:8).*
- **Depart from Evil.** *“Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forevermore. For the Lord loves justice, and does not forsake His saints.” (37:26,27).*
- **Wait on the Lord.** *“Wait on the Lord, and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land” (37:34).*

To wait on the Lord is to let go of control, trusting that God in His timing and providence will provide. To refuse to wait on the Lord is to seek to control olthings by taking matters into one’s own hands.

The Patience of the Saints is also Patience with the Saints

To exercise the patience of the saints means...

- The exercise patience with the saints, and especially with those who are not anywhere near being saints.
- Not to use the methods of the beast to do to the work of the Lamb, even though those methods may appear to work quicker and more efficiently than the methods of the Lamb.
- To let intercession replace criticism in dealing with those who are not saints.
- To transmit God’s perfect love toward those who are not perfect.
- To let the imperfect people in your life be God’s reminders that He is not finished with you or them yet.
- To cling to the trustworthiness of the Covenant Maker. *“Faithful is He who promised, who will also do it.” Hebrews 10:23.*
- To grow in Christlikeness while in God’s waiting room.
- To believe that God will judge those who treat us unjustly.
- To trust that *“in His time...God makes all things beautiful in His time.”*

Patience is Trusting in God’s Providence

Definition of Providence: The coming together of ordinary events with supernatural timing to accomplish God’s purposes.

Four Lessons in Providence: (1) Joseph, (2) Pharaoh, (3) Nebuchadnezzar, (4) Jesus, the Messiah.

To exercise patience is to trust in God’s timing, being firmly convinced that all our destinies are at all times in the direct care of a loving, benevolent, all-wise and gracious God, who has our best interests, as well as His own, at heart. Though all things are not good, we can nevertheless trust Him that He is working all things out for good (Romans 8:28).

“God engineers our circumstances as He did those of His Son; all we have to do is to follow where He places us. The majority of us are busy trying to place ourselves. God alters things while we wait for Him.” - OSWALD CHAMBERS

“Faith: seeing in advance what will only make sense in reverse.” - PHILIP YANCEY

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgment and His ways past finding out! (Romans 11:33). See also Revelation 15:3,4.

You Can Grow Through Trials By...

- Discerning God’s ultimate purpose in every trial. Every trial is a test of whether we will trust God 100% for everything and in every situation. While the present may not make sense, because faith does not always know where it is being led, it does know and love the One who is leading.
- Prayer and intercession for others. Every time you are tempted to criticize someone whose manners irritate you and test your patience, turn that temptation into a prayer in their behalf. In intercessory prayer we connect with what is in God’s heart concerning the person for whom we are praying. And since “God’s heart is always one of love we cannot help but start loving the ones whom our Heavenly Father loves.
- Praising and rejoicing in Jesus. In God’s waiting room you will discover that the joy of the Lord is your strength, not just for the future but for right now. You can rejoice in trials knowing that the testing of your faith works patience.