

The Fruit of the Spirit
Patience
October 01, 2023

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **Patience**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Gal. 5:22-23

Purpose: To know the Patience of God and, through the Spirit, produce patience that honors the Most High God.

Question: How do you define patience? To whom do you look or to what do you look to find THE definition?

Question: How has the patience of God impacted your life?

Question: To what extent has Spirit produced patience been integrated into your life?

1. God is patient.

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, **slow to anger**, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, Exodus 34:6

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, **slow to anger** and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Psalm 86:15

Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you,
And therefore **He waits** on high to have compassion on you.
For the Lord is a God of justice;
How blessed are all those who long for Him. Isaiah 30:18 NASB 95

What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, **endured with much patience** vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?
Romans 9:22 NASB 95

Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, **Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience** as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. 1 Timothy 1:16

who in the past were disobedient, when **God patiently waited** in the days of Noah while an ark was being prepared. In it a few—that is, eight people—were saved through water. 1 Peter 3:20 HCSB

Or do you presume on the riches of **his kindness and forbearance and patience**, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? Romans 2:4

God is called “**the God of patience** (perseverance)” in Romans 15:5

“God is Love” 1 John 4:8 and “**Love is Patient**” 1 Corinthians 13:4

Question: What are some examples from Scripture that illustrate the patience of God?

2. Patience defined.

Patient (3114) ([makrothumeo](#) from **makrós** = long + **thumós** = wrath, anger) means to have "a long fuse", to be longsuffering, slow to anger, slow to punish, to exhibit self-restraint in the face of provocation, not to retaliate, to bear the offenses and injuries of others, to be mild and slow in avenging.

"The patience of God is that excellency which causes Him to sustain great injuries without immediately avenging Himself. Patience describes that restraint God places on Himself under provocation". Pink

"The patience or longsuffering of God is that aspect of the goodness or love of God in virtue of which He bears with the flawed and evil in spite of their long continued disobedience." Louis Berkhof

God's patience is a property of the divine nature that signifies a willingness to defer, and an unwillingness to pour forth His wrath upon sinful creatures. He moderates His provoked justice, and forbears to revenge the injuries He daily meets within the world." Stephen Charnock

Patience is also referred to as "Slow to anger" and "longsuffering". Often referred to as "Patience with endurance." (Charnock) See Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 103:8, 145:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2; Numbers 14:18; Jeremiah 15:15

"God's patience gives Him power over Himself to restrain Himself even under provocation." Spurgeon

"Patience is in Christ. It is based on His atoning sacrifice in which all the requirements of justice are met. Jesus paid the price for our stay of execution. He secured the continuation of our lives. Even as God's grace and mercy are ours when in Christ, so also is His patience." Terry Johnson from The Excellencies of God

Patience involves self-restraint that does not retaliate reactively. It endures injuries inflicted by others without the need for revenge and willingly accepts irritating or painful situations. Biblical Doctrine, MacArthur and Mayhew

"God is free to execute justice and right all the wrongs in the world when He deems most suitable. Delay is not cancellation. He hath a liberty to restrain the

effects of this anger for a time without disgracing His Holiness or being interpreted to act unrighteously.” Excellencies of God

Some Scriptures to ponder:

He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,

so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

For he knows our frame;

he remembers that we are dust. Psalm 103:10-14

for he does not afflict from his heart

or grieve the children of men. Lamentations 3:33

3. How is God’s patience manifested?

Warnings- God manifest His patience by warnings of judgment before he acts.

who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while an ark was being prepared. In it a few—that is, eight people—were saved through water. 1 Peter 3:20 HCSB

And God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. **Noah warned the world of God’s righteous judgment.** So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood. 2 Peter 2:5

See also Genesis 18:20-21; Genesis 15:16; Romans 10:21

Reluctance- God manifest His patience by expressing reluctance and regret when He can delay His wrath no longer.

for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men. Lamentations 3:33

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. Genesis 6:5-8 NASB 95

"He punishes less than our iniquities deserve" Ezra 9:13

Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares the Lord God, "rather than that he should turn from his ways and live? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord God. "Therefore, repent and live." Ezekiel 18:23 and 32

"Patience is that attribute in God whereby He bears with sinners, and forbears or defers their punishment, or that whereby He expects and waits long for their conversion." George Swinnock

Others Hosea 11:8; Romans 2:4-5; Matthew 23:37

Kindness though provoked-

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, Romans 2:4-5

Contemplations from the "Excellencies of God"

4. Why is God patient?

Reconciliation with God:

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

So that the equity of His future judgments may be seen:

On the day of judgment, the accumulated offenses will be so great that when patience relinquishes and wrath is released, 'god's righteous judgment will be revealed.'" Romans 2:5

5. How are we to respond to God's patience?

Warned/alerted

Comforted

Patient in God's dealings with us

Replicate His patience

Question: Are you a patient representative/image bearer of God? How are you replicating the patience of God?

Question: In what way is the Spirit produced fruit of patience central and vital in Biblical counseling? What are verses of Scripture that teach the centrality of patience in counseling one another?

Summary: There is nothing which so certifies the genuineness of a man's faith as his patience. Let us then withhold harsh judgment. Let us then withhold condemnation. Let us then be mild, compassionate, and forgiving in our responses. Let us then "be patient with all" - not some, not most, but all- as the Apostle Paul instructs us. (1 Thessalonians 5:14) Martyn Lloyd Jones, *Spiritual Depression*

Primary resource for this lesson is "The Excellencies Of God" by Terry Johnson

