

Doctrine of Patience

1. In a time of economic distress individuals often plead for patience in repaying the loan.
 - *Matthew 18:26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.*

2. Spiritual fruit can only come forth with the passage of time and patience, provided the soul soil is good and receives the Word. Weeds and flowers may spring up overnight but a mighty oak takes a long time to produce.
 - *Luke 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.*

"No great thing is created suddenly, any more than a bunch of grapes or a fig. If you tell me that you desire a fig, I answer you that there must be time. Let it first blossom, then bear fruit, then ripen." Epictetus

3. Souls are lost, people are injured, harsh words are spoken, poor judgments are rendered, sometimes even health is jeopardized in the presence of impatience. A French proverb says, *"Laziness is often mistaken for patience."* Perhaps the opposite is also true, patience is often mistaken for laziness. A mother once chided her doctor when her daughter was ill and she was worried. *"Why don't you do something?"* she asked. *"I am doing something,"* replied the doctor. *"I am waiting."* Many of us have trouble determining when we are being patient and when we are being lazy.
 - *Luke 21:19 In your patience possess ye your souls.*

4. Both Paul and James taught that tribulation or adversity worketh the Christian virtue of patience or calm endurance.
 - *Romans 5:3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience.*
 - *James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

5. From the root of patience comes the fruit of patience.
 - Experience is a fruit of patience. *Romans 5:4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:*
 - Hope is a fruit of patience. *Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

- Worthiness to serve as a minister is a fruit of patience. *2 Corinthians 6:4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, 2 Corinthians 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.*
 - Reflected glory is a fruit of patience. *2 Thessalonians 1:4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure.*
 - Receiving the promise of eternal life is a fruit of patience. *Hebrews 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*
 - Coming to a place in the Christian life where nothing is wanted for nothing is lacking is a fruit of patience. *James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*
 - Happiness is a fruit of patience. *James 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure.*
6. Patience is an attribute of God that is to be manifested towards others according to the will of the Lord.
- *Romans 15:5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:*

Benjamin Franklin said, "*He that can have patience can have what he will.*"

7. Only the power of the resurrected Christ can strengthen or fortify the soul with divine patience.
- *Colossians 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;*
8. When the virtue of patience is displayed it is remembered and commented upon.
- *1 Thessalonians 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;*
9. While fleeing from specific forms of evil such as covetousness the believer is to seek hard after patience.
- *1 Timothy 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*

Holiness itself takes time and effort. Along the Danube River in Austria, on top of a prominent hill, sits the famous Weissenkirk. There are 365 steps leading from the valley below up to the church. There is one step for every day in a year! So for us there may be many steps before we reach our spiritual goals. We must not get discouraged. We must take one step at a time.

10. It is not wrong to evaluate self and even offer self as a role model in spiritual virtues as Paul did, provided there is genuine integrity in the soul.

- *2 Timothy 3:10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,*

11. The church is to teach Christian men how to be mature in patience.

- *Titus 2:2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.*

12. Christian exhortation is sometimes needed to remain faithful, as others have been faithful. We need to follow the example of believers who have gone before.

- *James 5:10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.*
- *Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

13. The Christian must be like a farmer waiting on a crop.

- *James 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*

In Young and Drake's famous comic strip "Blondie," a man is standing in front of Dagwood's door saying, "I'm accepting political contributions." Dagwood replies, "Well, I'd have to know what you stand for first." The man answers, "If the contribution is large enough, I can stand for just about anything." Certainly, we must have convictions that we will not give up for any price, but we may take the phrase in a far different sense and say that God's grace can give us patience to endure, to stand for just about anything.

14. We often speak of the patience of Job. We ought also to speak of the patience of Jesus. We see his patience with the disciples when we read the gospels. We see his patience with us when we think about our lives. The apostle Peter calls it "*the long-suffering of God*" (2 Peter 3:15).

- *James 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*

The patience of Job reminds us that spiritual lessons are not always easily learned or understood. Charles Kingsley wrote, "*Therefore let us be patient; and let God our father teach his own lesson in his own way. Let us try to learn it well and quickly; but do not let us fancy that he will ring the school bell, and send us out to play before our lesson is learnt.*"

15. Virtue after virtue is to be added to the Christian character.

- *2 Peter 1:6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness.*

16. In times of adversity the believer is not alone.

- *Revelation 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

17. The resurrected Lord knows intimately the lives of the saints. He knows the areas of weakness and He knows the areas of strength.

- *Revelation 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:*
- *Revelation 2:19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.*

18. The Lord speaks with favor for those who have calmly endured hardships for His cause.

- *Revelation 2:3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.*
- *Revelation 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

19. Christ will honor those who have honored Him.

- *Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*

Do not be discouraged. Often time must pass before honor can be bestowed. In 1917, Irving Berlin wrote a song for a musical intended to boost morale during World War I. It was cut from the show. It did not appear in the musical made for the show. Twenty years later, Kate Smith asked Berlin for a patriotic song. He opened a trunk and dusted off "*God Bless America.*"