



Galatians 5:22; Psalm 103:8-10

Introduction

“God is patient, so that we can be patient towards others and in life.”

I. Patience Defined

The three most frequently translated for patience is ‘longsuffering,’ ‘endurance’ and ‘perseverance.’

Arek appayim in Hebrew – ‘slow to anger’

Makrothumia is patience in respect to persons, while hupomone, endurance, is putting up with things or circumstances. Both words have a positive aspect to it.

Makrothumia is related to love, so hupomone is related to hope. Their opposite of hupomone is cowardice or despondency, where the opposite of makrothumia is wrath of revenge.

II. God Is Patience

a) God in the OT

1) His Nature

Exodus 34:6 – *“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...”*

Numbers 14:18; Nehemiah 9:17b; Psalm 103:8-10

2) His Patience Toward Mankind

2 Peter 3:8-10 – *“But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, **that with the Lord one day is a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** 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.”*

b) Jesus in the NT

Patience in Jesus can be seen in two ways: **First**, in his patience toward people, especially his disciples. Jesus was patient with them in all their faults and failings.

John 17:12

Second, and most important, we see his patience in the cross.

“To discover yourself a recipient of Christ’s patience is to find yourself loved by God. To know Jesus’ patience is to know the very love of God.” David Mathis

1 Timothy 1:16

III. Our Call to Patience

Because God is patient, through the Holy Spirit we can grow in our patience.

1) Patience Within

Before we can begin to have patience with others we must cultivate patience within. Impatience is nothing more than unbelief in God and his faithfulness.

“Pray to God for patience. Patience is a flower of God’s planting. Pray that it may grow in your heart, and send forth its sweet perfume.” Thomas Watson, Godly Man’s Picture

Colossians 3:12–14 - *“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, **and patience**, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other...”*

Proverbs 14:29; Proverbs 15:18; Proverbs 16:32; Proverbs 19:11

“All men commend patience, although few be willing to practice it.” Thomas a Kempis

2) Patience With Others

*“And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, **be patient with them all.**” 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Timothy 4:2*

“Impatience with the shortcomings of others often has its roots in pride.” Jerry Bridges

Our patience towards one other is one of the primary ways we maintain unity in our fellowship. Ephesians 4:1-3

3) Patient in Tribulation

Jesus tells us that tribulation is coming - *“In the world you will have tribulation.” Jn 16:33*

James 1:2-4; James 5:10-11;

4) Patient with God

*“And we desire each of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish (lazy), but imitators of those who through faith and **patience inherit the promises.**” Hebrews 6:11,12*

IV. Conclusion

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

Questions:

- 1) What are your thoughts on patience?
- 2) What do you think ‘knowing’ that God is slow toward anger?
- 3) How can you grow in patience?
- 4) Do you find yourself impatient with others? Spouse? Children?
- 5) How have you shown patience in tribulation?
- 6) Would you find yourself being patient with God or trying to fix things yourself?