

Peter said... **“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith...”** (2Peter 1:5-7)



INTRODUCTION

Thus far in our study of faithful additions, we have seen Virtue, Knowledge, and Temperance. Virtue is the will and desire to do what is right, which stems from the way we think and what we focus on (Philippians 4:8); knowledge is the illumination of the mind with truth and facts but is easily corrupted (Proverbs 1:7); and temperance is doing what you know to be virtuous, such as abstaining from temptations (1 Corinthians 9:25). Tonight, we look at the fourth rung of the ladder/wedding cake of faith, Patience.

1. A biblical **DEFINITION** of Patience.

- ✓ Webster's 1828 Dictionary definition
 - 1) The suffering of afflictions, pain, toil, calamity, provocation or other evil, with a calm, unruffled temper; endurance without murmuring or fretfulness. Patience may spring from constitutional fortitude, from a kind of heroic pride, or from Christian submission to the divine will.
 - 2) A calm temper which bears evils without murmuring or discontent.
 - 3) The act or quality of waiting long for justice or expected good without discontent.
- ✓ A note about longsuffering
 - 1) 1 definition in Webster's 1828 Dictionary: Bearing injuries or provocation for a long time; patient; not easily provoked.
 - 2) In many cases *longsuffering* and *patient* seem to have the same meaning, but in Colossians 1:11 they are deliberately separate.

Biblical **patience** would be living a life of **peace** by trusting in the Lord to accomplish all His will. This kind of hope, as we will see, is oftentimes deferred.

2. A biblical **STUDY** of patience.

- ✓ The word "*patience*" is found 34 times in 33 verses in the KJV – all in the New Testament.
 - 1) **Matthew 18:26,29; Luke 8:15; Luke 21:19** – the first four mentions of "*patience*" are spoken by Jesus Christ in three different contexts.
 - God is patient with us, even to the forgiveness of our sins! James 5:11

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- We bear fruit by our patience! 2Cor 12:12
- There is coming a time when people will have to possess their souls by patience! Think Job. Heb 10:23, 36

2) **Romans 5:1-5; 8:25; 15:4-5; Col 1:11; 1 Thess 1:3; 2 Thess 1:4**

- Patience and Hope go hand-in-hand. They see you through trials and tribulations. – see also Heb 6:12; 10:36; 12:1; James 1:3,4; 5:7, 10-11

3) **2 Corinthians 6:4**

- Patience mends rifts, we are to be united in Christ

4) **1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 3:10; Titus 2:2; 2 Peter 1:6**

- Patience is to be sought after in spite of other interests.
- Patience is a quality to seek after and add to your faith.

5) **Revelation 1:9; 2:2-3, 19; 3:10; 13:10; 14:12**

- Last mentions of the word, again different contexts
- Ephesus was patient, Thyatira was patient, and Philadelphia kept the word of Christ’s patience.
- Luke’s prophecy is explained in Revelation 13:10 and 14:12 at the end of all things.

✓ “Patiently” shows up 6 times in 5 verses; “Patient” shows up 9 times in 9 verses

1) **Two forms of “patience” show up in the old testament**

- Psalms is the earliest mention of the any, both “patiently” – Ps 37:7; 40:1
- Ecclesiastes is the only other O.T. mention of “patient” – Ecc 7:8
- Every other mention of the form is in the N.T.

3. A practical **APPLICATION** of *patience*.

✓ Patience is a **CHARACTER** quality – something that can be learned and lived out.

1) Job had patience to bear tribulations from the devil and his friends. Living out patience can look like Paul in **2 Corinthians 12:12** or **2 Timothy 3:10** and Jesus Christ.

2) Patience is similar to joy and peace in that you have the option to be patient in the moment. It is a mental/spiritual choice that reflects on your testimony and your walk with Christ. **2 Corinthians 6:3-10; 2 Tim 2:24**

3) We are commanded to be patient in all things, whether trials or tribulations or divisions. **Titus 2:2; Romans 15:5; 2 Corinthians 6; 1 Thess 5:14**

4) God takes to himself this quality. Remember his patience. **Romans 15:5; Lk 23:34**