



GOD'S PATIENCE

DEFINITION

God's patience means God's goodness in withholding punishment toward those who sin over a period of time, because of his great plan and purpose to deal with sin at the time he has appointed time Rom 3:25-26

MAIN SCRIPTURE

2 Pet 3:8-9 - But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfil his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. - Slowness is not patient. God is not bound by time and we have to see his patience as an expression of his goodness not a frustration.

FOLLOW-UP SCRIPTURES

1 Tim 1:16, Rom 15:5, Rom 2:4

FAITH & HOPE

Patience is so key to understanding God and particularly when it relates to faith and hope. The books of Hebrews tells us that hope is an anchor for the soul, and faith is what we use to pull on the rope but this requires patience. We can be convinced of the truth and expectant of future good, our salvation and resurrection, but none of this may happen quickly for us. Abraham and Sarah are our great example. They walked in faith and had great hope for Isaac, that Abraham would be a father of many nations but it took time. We cannot force our timescales onto God and therefore if God is being patient so must we be! It's interesting that the majority of scripture about patience is not about God being patient but the importance of us being patient in waiting for him!

LOVE

However patient we might have to be in waiting for God it pales into comparison to his patience with humanity. We were objects of wrath, betraying him time and again, rarely appreciating his goodness towards us, we caused him so much pain. God's patience bears with us through all the ups and downs in our lives. He was with us throughout the journey all the way from our rebellion to our restoration. Our response must be to pour out our love to him in the face of such patience towards us.