

BE LIKE JESUS

Am I Becoming the Person God Wants Me to Be?

LESSON 6 – HOW CAN I BE PATIENT WITH OTHERS?

“Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.”

Proverbs 14:29 (NIV)

There is something about impatience and being like Jesus—being a Christian—that doesn’t go together. When we read story after story in the Bible, we see how patient God was with people. When we think back to the story of our own life, we will discover the amazing patience that God had for us.

1. **The question is:** How does God provide the help we need to deal with **STRESS**?
God has a vision for us to be patient, and we can do it with the help of Jesus Christ.
 - A. God is long-suffering in dealing with us, which provides an **example** for how we should respond to others. **Psalm 86:15** *“But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.”*
 - B. God’s Holy Spirit gives us the **strength** and ability to see life through his eyes and by his perspective, which helps us see the bigger picture and impacts the way we handle stress.
 - C. He also **encourages** us with inspiration and motivation found in His Word to help us wait for his timing. **Psalm 27:14** *“Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.”*

How A Wise Person Behaves

2. **I am slow to anger and endure patiently under the unavoidable **PRESSURES** of life.**
 - A. **Patience** falls in the same company as humility, gentleness, and love. **Ephesians 4:12** *“To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”*
Doesn’t it make sense that a humble, gentle, loving person would also be patient?
 - The **Greek** word **makrothymia**: is often translated into English as patience, but it also carries the idea of *“taking a long time to burn with anger.”*
 - Another **Greek** word that is translated as *patience* or perseverance is **hypomone**; which literally means *“to remain under”* the unavoidable pressures of life.
 - B. Some translations of the Bible use the word **long-suffering** to define *patience*, which conveys the idea that we display restraint and will be merciful even when we have been wronged. We will not only refuse to defend ourselves but will also turn down any opportunity to offend the other person. We will *“suffer long”* before we get upset.
3. **How to **Develop** the Virtue of Patience in Your Life.**
 - A. **Trust God’s timing**, His ways, and His outcomes.
The only way God can help us to grow in patience is to give us circumstances where we must learn to trust him. **Proverbs 3:5-6** *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”*
 - B. Don’t let **unimportant** stuff bother you so much. **Proverbs 19:11** *“A person’s wisdom yields patience; it is to one’s glory to overlook an offense.”*
 - C. **Offer** the patience today that you would like to receive tomorrow.
Ecclesiastes 7:8-9 *“The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride.⁹ Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools.”*