

Trust in the Salvation of the LORD

Psalm 13:1-2

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

- ¹ *How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?*
- ² *How long shall I take counsel in my soul,
Having sorrow in my heart daily?
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?*
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There are many in the body that struggle with the fact that they have negative thoughts and/or feelings about their experience with God and the manner or schedule with which God gives aid in their difficulties. There's quite a few thoughts in the Scripture that speak to fact that we often display a willingness demonstrate our impatience with how God is working out our particular case in a particular time.

The Bible speaks quite fully and explicitly about the idea, the character quality of patience often:

- 1. First, and quite obviously, it tells us that our God is characterized by the quality of Patience.***

Rom 15:5 *Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,*

It surely seems as though we are to understand that one of God's chief characteristics is that He is willing to "sit" on His Heavenly Throne and patiently wait for His purposes and goals to be accomplished no matter what length of time it ultimately takes.

- 2. The primary and ultimate example of our Father's exercise of patience is the Lord Christ Himself.***

Is 53:7 *He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.*

The patience of God extends itself to the time that Christ walked among men and headed towards His purpose for being here - He underwent all that men could sling at Him and yet did not exercise that power that was naturally His and the One true God. He could have, at any moment, simply uttered a word and destroyed His enemies. But yet, He patiently waited for the time of the



fulfillment of the purpose for which The Father had sent Him arrived. Until then, He was silent and did not so much as open His mouth, let alone to exercise His power and wrath. This is likewise borne out in both Matt. 27:4 and Acts 8:32.

***Matt 27:14** But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.*

***Acts 8:32** The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth.*

3. For You and I, God's Children, Patience Is Commanded.

There are a number of passages that urge the family of God to be sure that they exercise patience, even in difficult or responsible situations:

***1 Thess 5:14** Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.*

***Titus 2:2** that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;*

We are also to see God telling us that patience is a part of our maturing process as we grow toward Christ-likeness.

***James 1:4** But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

***2 Pet 1:6** to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,*

There are passages that are enlightening and perspective giving, though perhaps a bit distressing or alarming that speak of the fact that patience is necessary and results in good and profitable character qualities:

4. Trials and sufferings of believers lead to.

***Rom 5:3-4** And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

***Rom 15:4** For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

***James 1:3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*

***1 Pet 2:20** For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.*

Paul mentions it is an initial step toward character and hope. James tells us that godly patience comes from the experiencing of the testing of our faith as a believer.

5. *There are also passages that indicate that patience is to be exercised as a part of accomplishing our the goals of the Christian Life.*

A. Patience is a part of running the race set before us.

Heb 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

B. It is also essential to bringing forth godly fruits.

Luke 8:15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

C. Patience is also shown to be a solid part of doing good.

Rom 2:7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;

Gal 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

D. Also, and quite understandably, it is a part of waiting for God.

Ps 37:7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

Ps 40:1 I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry.

Lam 3:26 It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD.

It is in this area that so many of us experience difficulty and even a fall. Waiting is extremely difficulty, especially when the matter in view is an important or special one. The thing to avoid here is the kind of upset we see here in Psalm 13:1-2. It is one thing to be expressing our difficulties and frustrations to God, but another thing entirely to actually be railing against God's "seeming" slowness.

E. So We see that Patience is a Part of Waiting for Christ.

1 Cor 1:7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 Thess 3:5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

We would suggest that this is true of both the Immediate kind of waiting that all of undergo virtually every day as well as the waiting that we must do until our Lord sees fit to return to establish His Kingdom. If we are to wait, in either sense, effectively and in a way that truly brings glory to God, we must do so with patience and a satisfaction in our part served in the long-term accomplishment of the plan and purpose of God.

F. It is easy to understand that Patience is a part of waiting for the hope of the gospel.

That thought is carried on by underscoring that this patience awaits the seeing of the fulfilling of the promise of the Gospel.

Rom 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

G. Solomon tells us that Patience is necessary to “Bearing the yoke”.

The Scripture says that the bearing of the burden of being faithful to and spreading of the Gospel and the service of God is a yoke that must be borne with patience.

Lam 3:27 It is good for a man to bear The yoke in his youth.

H. In tribulation.

Both Luke and Paul were specific in telling us that Patience is a part of gaining or accomplishing success in our Christian lives.

Luke 21:19 By your patience possess your souls.

Rom 12:12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

6. We Also Know that it is Necessary to the inheritance of the promises.

Though certainly not in the sense of working and thus earning the coming promises of God, the writer to the Hebrews makes it clear that patience is, indeed, a part of that process.

Heb 6:12 *that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

Heb 10:36 *For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:*

7. They who are in authority, should exercise.

The Scripture also wants us to understand that those who stand in the place of leadership must, as a part of the interaction with those who are a part of the body, exercise patience...

Matt 18:26 *The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'*

Acts 26:3 *especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently.*

2 Cor 6:4 *But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,*

1 Tim 6:11 *But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.*

8. A fruit of the Spirit.

Of course, all believers know that the Apostle Paul tells us that patience is one of the Fruit of the Spirit that we are all pursue.

Gal 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

9. Outgrowth of humility and gentleness.

As a part of the pursuit of the fruit of patience, Paul also tells us that we are to pursue it with:

Eph 4:2 *with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,*

That's pretty solid description of how it is that patience works itself out in regular life.

Paul must have been quite familiar with the idea of patience because he had a good deal to say about it. For instance he further said that it was...

10. One of the tender mercies.

Col 3:12 *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;*

Likewise, Paul gives quite a list of sort of “side” characteristics for patience:

11. He says it Should be accompanied by

A. It’s Accompanied By Godliness.

It is difficult, actually, to completely discern which one is accompanied by the other; though we might surely argue that it is godliness that accompanies patient as a result or outflow. We might also argue that either flows out of the other. It is difficult to make certain seeing as one is added to the other.

2 Pet 1:6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

Just like most real aspects of godly living, patience must be accompanied by or energized by faith.

B. It’s Accompanied By Faith.

2 Thess 1:4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,

Heb 6:12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Rev 13:10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

It seems fairly certain that faith and patience, like most other character qualities feed off of each other.

Peter lets us know that patience is always right alongside of self-control.

C. Patience is Accompanied By Self-control.

2 Pet 1:6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

The Scripture enlarges the idea by adding to it the thought of “self-control” as a function knowledge and patience. Self-control is one of the “bigger” qualities that is promoted by Scripture.

D. Patience is Accompanied By Longsuffering.

Col 1:11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

Quite logically, if we are growing in Christ and in His likeness, all of what we are adding and growing in will bring us great joy. This obviously would include the trait of patience.

E. Patience is Accompanied By Joyfulness.

Though the actual waiting in patience is not what we would call a pleasure, obeying and allowing God to do things in His own way and time brings joy.

Col 1:11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

12. Naturally, Patience Is Commended By God

Once we recognize that it is God in command and in control of all the things and matters in our life it is more possible, and in fact likely that what we are doing is a matter of obedience and we will be more able to wait with patience. In fact, waiting with patience instead of allowing ourselves to give even minor vent to our emotions is commanded by God. Such patient waiting gives God praise and brings Him glory in the matter instead of seeming as though we are not seeing Him as He truly is.

Ecc 7:8 The end of a thing is better than its beginning; The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

Rev 2:2–3 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.

Quite naturally, there are quite a few illustrations of those with patience in the Bible:

13. Illustrated.

The farmer is a quite poignant illustration of what we are speaking of:

James 5:7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

14. Several Examples of Patience

Job is both a direct example in his book and an indirect one being referred to in James:

A. Job.

Job 1:21 And he said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

James 5:11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

B. Simeon.

A “just and devout” man named Simeon in Jerusalem is another example:

Luke 2:25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

C. Paul.

The NT gives us the Apostle Paul and a great example of Patience:

2 Tim 3:10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,

D. Abraham.

Hebrews points to Father Abraham as another example for us to think through:

Heb 6:15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

Indeed all of the Prophets from the OT would fall in the category of being those who exercised patience in a godly fashion:

E. The prophets.

James 5:10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.

The Apostle John, the Beloved Disciple is another example for us:

F. John.

Rev 1:9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

There is ample definition and example of patience for us to absorb concerning just what it is that defines patience in the Scriptures. Let’s take advantage of it!