

## PATIENCE

Patience is keeping sweet in the bitter. The end of human patience is the beginning of Jesus' sweetness which never fails. It is not like some things that are good to have but that we can get along without.

We have need of it, for it belongs to completion. Without it, we are like a house without a roof, or a hat without a rim, or like a dreamer that is ready to leave on a train, and then discovers to his surprise that he is only partially ready. [James 1:4 NKJV](#) But let patience have its **perfect** work, that you **may** be **perfect** and complete, lacking nothing. We need it, to receive the promise. God does not waste His promised blessings on fretful, impatient people. It is upon those proven patient that He showers His wealth. [Heb.10:36 NKJV](#) "For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:" We are to be followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promise; like Abraham, who after he had patiently endured, received the promise. Perhaps often there is faith enough to claim, but no patience to wait; we must not let the lack of the one ruin the effect of the other.

We need it in order to be established. Impatient people are good nowhere. They are like foam or soap bubbles. They explode at nothing. God wants Jobs and Josephs, who He can drive like stocks into a firm place, with every bump making them firmer. Don't split. Allow yourself to be driven in, so that you can bear a load without creaking or shaking.

The way to get it is not what the flesh likes. We would like God to manufacture it in heaven, and then send it by angelic express to earth. We may have wisdom by asking and patience by having it developed in us. A machine is made, but a tree must grow; so patience must grow out of Jesus dwelling within. "Let patience have her perfect work;" "tribulation works patience." (Rom.5:3) God is the husbandman, He can and does develop it in various ways, waiting long, sometimes, for the precious fruit.

Sometimes He makes us wait a long time, just to see if we have patience, and to develop more. So it was with Abraham concerning Isaac, the promised son; and so it was with Noah during his one hundred and twenty years of patient toil and preaching.

Patience grows best in the rocky soil of affliction, suffering, chastisement, persecution, when the stiffness of the old will and the desires of the flesh are broken to pieces and put to naught. It thrives best in a host of surroundings that are anything but peaceful and restful.

The patience of Christ is the best antidote for grudging, grumbling, and groaning. In James 5 these two opposites are contrasted. Grudging is judging; which is the out flow of impatience. The Judge stands before the door, and if He finds any one seated on a little judgment seat of his own, with a poor culprit before him, it will be woe to the would-be judge, for he will be condemned by the great Judge.

It is a preparation for His coming. Without patience, we shall be overcome by the increasing wickedness of sin in these last days. We need it as a preparation, as well as a means of keeping prepared. Without it, we cannot be adorned with a meek and quiet spirit, which is of great value in God's sight.

"The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ." (II Thes. 3:5) [James 5:8 NKJV](#) "You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."