

## PATIENCE

- I. Representative Biblical references
  - A. Old Testament

Exod. 34:6 - "Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger..."  
cf. Neh. 9:17; Ps. 86:15; 103:8; 145:8; Joel 2:13...

Prov. 14:17, 29 - "He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who is quick-tempered exalts folly"
  - B. New Testament
    1. Greek *makrothumia*. *makro*=long; *thumos*=wrath. "long-temper"  
I Cor. 13:4 - "love is patient"  
Gal. 5:22 - "fruit of Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience.."  
I Thess. 5:14 - "be patient with all men"  
James 5:7,8 - "be patient until the coming of the Lord"
    2. Greek *hupomeno*. *hupo*=under; *meno*=to abide. "abide under"  
Rom. 5:3 - "tribulation works patience"  
Rom. 15:5 - "the God of patience"  
Heb. 10:36 - "you have need of endurance"  
James 1:3,4 - "test of your faith produces endurance"
- II. Defining patience
  - A. Patience is not a natural trait
    1. Not to be confused with
      - a. Stoicism - "bear it"
      - b. Fatalism - "put up with it"
      - c. Passivism - "roll with it"
      - d. Escapism - "move away from it"
      - e. Isolationism - "shut it out"
      - f. Humanism - "deal with it"
    2. Differing personality patterns
      - a. Some personalities have natural tendency to be flexible, tolerant, restrained, leisurely, lenient, reserved, acquiescent, easy-going, unruffled, cooperative, complacent, to defer, to overlook faults, etc.
      - b. Is this patience? Why? Why not?
      - c. Is such behavior motivated by a fear of, or avoidance of, confrontation, alienation, disharmony, disloyalty, making someone feel bad, etc.?
  - B. Patience is a divine attribute
    1. Character of God

Exod. 34:6 - "Lord God,...slow to anger"  
I Pet. 3:20 - "the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah"
    2. Exhibited in/by Jesus Christ

II Thess. 3:5 - "the steadfastness of Christ"  
I Pet. 2:23 - "while being reviled, He did not revile in return,...but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously"  
II Pet. 3:9 - "The Lord is patient toward you"  
II Pet. 3:15 - "the patience of our Lord...salvation"
    3. Divine implementation in behavior of men
      - a. "not a virtue achieved, but a character received"  
Gal. 5:22 - "fruit of Spirit...patience"  
Col. 1:11 - "strengthened with all power, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience"

- C. Contexts of patience
1. Patient with people - when wronged, offended, rejected, falsely accused, slighted, assaulted, treated unjustly; when people don't do it right  
 Eph. 4:2 - "conduct yourselves with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love"  
 Col. 3:12,13 - "put on patience, bearing with one another"  
 I Thess. 5:14 - "be patient with all men"  
 II Tim. 2:24 - "patient when wronged"
  2. Patient in trials, inconveniences, events, when things go wrong  
 Rom. 5:3 - "tribulation brings about perseverance"  
 James 1:3 - "the testing of your faith produces endurance"
  3. Patient with yourself, personal expectations, aspirations, weaknesses.
- D. Finding definition in the Greek words for "patience"
1. *Makrothumia* - "long temper"
    - a. Delayed reaction of anger, wrath, irritation, retaliation, judgment – avoidance of impulsive "fight" response.
    - b. Positive response connected to "love"  
 I Cor. 13:4 - "love is patient"  
 Gal. 5:22 - "fruit of Spirit is love...patience..."  
 II Tim. 3:10 - "patience, love, perseverance"
  2. *Hupomeno* - "to abide under"
    - a. Delayed reaction of frustration, despondency, despair, panic – avoidance of impulsive "fright" response.
    - b. Delayed reaction of escape, withdrawal, isolation, running away – avoidance of impulsive "flight" response.
    - c. Positive response connect with "hope"  
 Rom. 5:4 - "perseverance brings about proven character, and proven character, hope..."  
 Rom. 8:25 - "if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it"  
 Rom. 12:12 - "rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation"  
 I Thess. 1:3 - "steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ"
  3. Together they provide more comprehensive definition
    - a. Delayed reaction to circumstances of life.
    - b. We do not make a quick reaction, because...
      - (1) God has a bigger perspective
      - (2) God has a purpose in it all
      - (3) God is in control
      - (4) God wants to act in control through you
        - (a) in grace - His activity by His character
        - (b) in love - that seeks highest good of others
        - (c) in thanksgiving - that recognizes His grace
        - (d) in joy - gladness of grace
        - (e) in hope - confident expectation that He does all things well
        - (f) by faith - our receptivity of His activity  
 Rev. 13:10 - "perseverance and faith"
        - (g) in action - persistence, perseverance, constancy
- Ps. 37:7 - "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him"