

"The Building Block of Patience"

II Peter 1:3-9

Open: *A Review of Temperance*

- **Temperance** = *Moderation; self-control; to make moldable again, or to increase an objects usefulness.*
- Once man begins to gain knowledge, he must guard himself from pride, and keep himself moldable.
- We must be careful to not allow the knowledge that we have gained to hinder our growth.
- Don't let your pride allow you to focus on how much you know or how far you have come, allow your humility to remind you, and keep you focused on how much farther you have to go.

Tran: *Understanding the need of patience in our lives.*

- **Enacting patience in life allows one to remain confident in God's ability, and it allows an individual to remain focused on performing the duties of a faithful child of God.** **Heb. 10:34-35** *"For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. [35] Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward."*
 - Yes persecution, peril, and poverty was being faced [**Heb. 10:32-33**] by these individuals; but they did not enact patience so they could see an improvement in their personal life.
 - They activated patience in their life because they wanted to receive something better than temporary relief from difficulties, they wanted those enduring substances [**vs. 34**].
 - So many cast away (dispose of or throw away) their confidence (faith) in God because He has delayed in relieving them from their current difficulty.
- **Patience is not needed to wait for a trial to end; but for the fulfilment of a promise AFTER an action has been performed that God can bless.** **Heb. 10:36-37** *"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. [37] For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry."*
 - As obedient children of God, we can also rejoice in the times of trials, not because we enjoy them; but because we have been given an opportunity to grow. **Rom. 5:3** *"And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;"*
 - The trials (delay of God's blessings for an action performed) will exercise (make stronger) our patience (continual obedience through a time of delayed blessings). Patience brings hope, to a faithful child of God, in times of trials. **Rom. 5:4** *"And patience, experience; and experience, hope:"*
- Patience is not needed by individuals seeking enjoyment in life; patience is needed by those seeking to be blessed by God. **Rom. 8:25** *"But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."*
 - Those who abandon faith in God during a time of trial to seek earthly answers will never grow in their Christian life as God wants them to.
 - Patience must be added to faith in order for a Christians life to be complete.

I. Bible Illustrations of Patience.

A. A Husbandman in his vineyard. **James 5:7** *“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.”*

- i. This word "wait" is not a word of in-action; but rather a faithful service until the reward is received.
- ii. The husbandman does not plant his crop and do nothing till it's time to harvest. He will do everything he can to ensure his crop can bring the biggest yield (weeding, watering, pruning, and protecting).
- iii. To many Christians go through life expecting that just because they planted the seed of faith that their life will blossom. They miss out on the joy and rewards of faithful service until the time of harvest comes. **Lk. 8:13-15** *“They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, **which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.** [14] And that which fell among thorns are they, which, **when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.** [15] But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, **having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.**”*

B. The Trials of Job.

- i. Job did not blame God for the times of difficulty; Job trusted that God would give him what he needed when he needed it. **Job 1:20-22** *“Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, [21] And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. [22] In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.”*
- ii. Job did not turn back after he acted on faith, he remained faithful believing that God was doing something better in his life. **Job 23:10-12** *“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. [11] My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. [12] Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.”*

C. Abraham's Journey of Faith.

- i. Abraham did not cast away his confidence in God's ability to fulfill His promises; Abraham continued in patience. **Heb. 11:8-10** *“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.[9] By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: [10] For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”*
- ii. Abraham did not cast away his confidence in God when God continued to test his faith; he remained faithful in the times of trials. **Heb. 11:17-19** *“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, [18] Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: [19] Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.*

II. Bible response to times of trials.

- A. Allow God to complete His perfect work in your life so you can be a complete Christian.
- i. **James 1:4** *"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect [complete], and entire wanting nothing."* - You can't rush perfection.
 - ii. **Rom. 8:28** *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*
- B. **Firmly ground your faith in the promises of God.** **James 5:8** *"Be ye also patient; **stablish** your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."*
- i. **Rom. 6:19** *"Which hope we have as an **anchor** of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil."*
 - ii. **Col. 2:7a** *"**Rooted** and **built up** in him, and **stablished** in the faith, as ye have been taught..."*
- C. **Don't become lazy; remain faithful in doing what God told you to do.**
- i. **Rom. 12:11-12** *"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; [12] Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;"*
 - ii. **Heb. 6:12** *"...be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."*
- D. Do not cast away your confidence [faith] in God's ability to fulfill His promises in your life. Don't trade God's promises for what man claims he can give you.
- i. **Heb. 6:10** *"God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."*
 - ii. **Heb. 10:35** *"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward."*
 - iii. **Heb. 11:6b** *"...for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*
- E. **Don't sacrifice eternal rewards on the altar of temporary pleasures.**
- i. **Matt. 6:19-20** *"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: [20] But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:"*
 - ii. **II John 1:8** *"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."*

Close:

- What separates a successful Christian from a Christian who quits, is not talent or charisma; it is patience.
- When you're faced with difficult trials, keep going! Don't quit.

James 1:4

"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect, and entire wanting nothing."

"Review Questions"

1. Why is patience needed? **To wait for the reward of an action that has already been performed.**
2. What is the purpose of patience? **Allows an individual to remain focused on obeying God.**
3. Firmly ground your faith in the **?????** of God. **Promises**
4. Don't become lazy, remain **?????** in doing what God told you to do. **Faithful**
5. Don't sacrifice **?????** rewards on the altar of temporary pleasures. **Eternal**