

“THE ART OF PATIENCE”

Lesson 8 □ For week ending November 22, 2014

When we think of patience, our minds immediately flash to the last time we had to wait for something. It has been said, “Patience is not the act of waiting, rather it is how we act while we are waiting.” Waiting with patience is easier said than done; however, as we learn to have patience, God is bringing about His purpose in our lives and spiritual walk. Why is it when we pray for patience, trouble quickly follows?

– Deaconess Kimberley Combs

KEY TEXT: “Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience” (James 1:3).

1. In the New Testament, there are two meanings for the word patience. The first meaning is what we commonly associate as patience. It is the word makrothymia which means longsuffering, slowness in avenging wrongs, constancy, or forbearance. Examples of this type of patience are found in Hebrews 6:12 and James 5:7,10. Discuss the importance of this type of patience to our growth.

• **Hebrews 6:12**

12 “That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

• **James 5:7,10**

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...”

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

2. Keeping a cheerful attitude while forbearing and longsuffering is admirable; however, it is not what got the Early Church through times of martyrdom. The second meaning for the word patience is quite extraordinary and encouraging! The word hypomene is a combination of two words: First, hypo meaning under a place, and second, mene meaning to abide, dwell, continue, stand or remain. In other words, “staying power” or “hanging-in-there power”. This brings to light the meaning of patience to the Early Church and to us today. Luke 21:19 states the importance of this type of patience. What does Hebrews 10:36 tells us about the importance of this type of patience? Why is this “staying power” critical to our relationship with God and others?

• **Luke 21:19**

19 “By your patience possess your souls.”

• **Hebrews 10:36**

36 “For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”

3. The reason why trouble quickly follows a prayer for patience—or when God thinks we need to grow in patience—is because in order to obtain that “staying power” or that “I’m not going anywhere!” mentality, we must go through something that will shake our faith and reveal just how committed we are to God and His will (James 1:4; II Corinthians 6:4; Romans 5:3).

• **James 1:4**

4 “But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

• **II Corinthians 6:4**

4 *“But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses.”*

• **Romans 5:3**

3 *“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance.”*

4. The Apostles of the Early Church understood the importance of possessing patience (Revelation 1:9; 2:3; Colossians 1:10-11). James mentions the “patience of Job” in James 5:11. This “staying power” will keep us firmly planted in the will and Word of God (Luke 8:15; II Thessalonians 1:4). While we may not always pray for patience by name, the opportunity to grow in patience often comes whether we are ready or not!

• **Revelation 1:9**

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.”*

• **Revelation 2:3**

3 *“And you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.”*

• **Colossians 1:10-11**

10 *“That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*
11 *strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy.”*

• **James 5:11**

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.”*

• **Luke 8:15**

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.”*

• **II Thessalonians 1:4**

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.”*

Lesson Notes

– **Patience is a fruit of the Spirit**

• **Galatians 5:22-23**

22 *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*
23 *gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”*

– Patience is needed for God’s work to be accomplished

• Habakkuk 2:3

3 *“For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.”*

– Patience is part of hope

• Romans 8:24-30

24 *For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?*

25 *But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*

26 *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.*

27 *And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.*

28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who[a] have been called according to his purpose.*

29 *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

30 *And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*

– Patience is trusting God

• Psalm 37:7

7 *“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices.”*

– God has been patient with us

• II Peter 3:9

9 *“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”*