



# Patience

A patient man has great understanding but a quick tempered man displays folly. Proverbs 14v29

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The meaning of the word patience is an ability or willingness to suppress relentlessness or annoyance. Patience also means a quiet, steady perseverance. Almost everything we do in life requires patience. We may get caught in rush hour traffic, long lines in banks or supermarkets. Getting mad does not help the situation at all.

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.  
1 Peter 1v6-7

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

Patience is endurance, steadfastness, long-suffering, and forbearance. We are told that we will have tribulation in the world. Through this tribulation, as we handle these trials correctly as God wants us to, we gain character, patience, etc.

The farmer is an example of patience. In the book of James we read of the farmer who waits patiently for a good crop.

In the first chapter of the book of Joel we are told of the land with perished crops. The prophet urges the people to repent, and God promises the crops will be restored.

"Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and late rains." James 5:7

When others aggravate us, we need to deal with these situations according to God's will. The Lord wants us to be caring and loving toward others when they annoy or offend us.

Paul tell us in Ephesians 4:2, "... walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, "

Also in Colossians 3:13, "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."

People who are impatient usually have difficulty resisting the need for immediate gratification. Sometimes they seem to be impulsive. The most famous quote about patience equates it with love: "Love is patient" (See 1 Corinthians 13:4).

If you don't have patience, you may find it difficult to reach your goals. Usually challenges and obstacles arise after setting important goals. People with patience follow the motto, "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again." People who lack patience tend to quit when things get difficult. (Life lessons an Owner's Guide)

Getting impatient won't make things move along any faster, so why get worked up?

Patience is the companion of wisdom. --St. Augustine