

Patience

Colossians 3.12-14

Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but **godliness** has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4.7b-8

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.** ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3.12-14

Some of the traits of godly character appear to blend together much as different shades of thread in a garment or colors in a rainbow. Patience, for example, closely resembles joy and peace in its effect upon our lives. The word *patience*, as we use it in everyday speech, actually stands for several different words in the New Testament, and is used to describe a godly reaction to a variety of situations. The truly patient Christian must display godly patience in all of the various circumstances requiring it. The Christian who desires to grow in patience must give attention to each facet of this quality as it applies to his life.

Patience Manifested When Suffering Mistreatment

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 1 Peter 2.23

⁶ God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷ and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. 2 Thessalonians 1.6-7

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. 1 Peter 4.19; Genesis 50.20

Patience Manifested When Responding to Provocation – Matthew 18.21-35

⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.' Exodus 34.6-7

Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience? Romans 2.4

¹⁹ My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. James 1.19-20

Patience Manifested When Tolerating Shortcomings

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4.2-3; Colossians 3.13

Patience Manifested When Waiting on God – James 5.7-11

¹ I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.

² He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. Psalm 40.1-2

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. Hebrews 6.12

Patience Manifested When Persevering Through Adversity – Rom. 5.26-27; 2 Cor. 1.3-4; Eph. 3.16-19

⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15.4-6