

Christian Characteristics

Perseverance (Patience)

Introduction

2 Peter 1:5-10

- 1. Patience Defined: "the will or ability to endure without complaint; endurance, perseverance, etc. in performing a task; refusing to be provoked, as by an insult; forbearing" (Webster's New World Dictionary)**

A. Often times children can express definitions the best.

A School Teacher asked: "Johnny, can you tell me the difference between perseverance and obstinacy?"
Johnny replied: "One is a strong will and the other is a strong won't."

- 2. Patience is a very precious Christian characteristic, but it is a very difficult one to add to one's life.**
- 3. How wonderful it would be if all could develop this characteristic.**
- 4. It is needed in individuals of all ages.**

Patience Commanded

1. Peter says it needs to be added in our text.

2. Paul commanded it upon the servants of God.

2 Tim 2:24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

3. James commanded it upon the brethren.

James 5:7 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.

A An impatient farmer would go crazy. Have you ever known a farmer? The ones that I have known seem to move at the speed of sprouting seeds. Patience is one thing most of them have learned.

Where Patience Is Needed

1. **In Tribulation.**

Rom 12:12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

A. There is glory when we suffer for the Lord and do it patiently.

1 Peter 2:20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.

B. We should learn to possess a mind that is thankful to suffer for Christ.

Matthew 5:11-12

C. Examples of patience in tribulation:

1) Christ - the greatest example.

1 Peter 2:21-23

2) The Thessalonians (1 Thes 2:14).

2 Thess 1:4 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,

3) The prophets that were cited by James.

James 5:10-11 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. (Steven - Acts 7:52; Prophets 2 Chron 36:15-16) 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.

2. **In Well Doing.**

Rom 2:7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;

A. **We must commit our souls to God in well doing.**

1 Peter 4:19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

B. **We must not grow weary in doing good.**

2 Thess 3:13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.

Gal 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap **if we do not lose heart.**

C. **Let us realize that our service to God is not in vain.**

Don't Give Up

I've taught a class for many years;
Borne many burdens — toiled through tears.
But folks don't notice me a bit;
I'm so discouraged — I'll just quit.

Sometime ago I began to preach;
That many folks I might be able to teach.
But folks don't seem moved a bit,
And I won't stand it — I'll just quit.

I've led young people day and night;
And sacrificed to lead them right.
But folks won't help me out a bit,
And I'm so tired — I think I'll quit.

Christ's cause is hindered everywhere;
And folks are dying in despair.
The reason why? Just think a bit,
The church is full of folks — who have quit.

1 Corinthians 15:58

3. **In Dealing With The Unruly.**

A. **With patience we must warn the unruly.**

1 Thess 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

- 1) **This word “unruly” means insubordinate or idle” We must learn to be patient to those that have been warned against insubordination and idleness to allow them some time to change.**
- 2) **However, I have found that some want to use this passage to include all and any discipline that needs to be done. In other words, to be patient (meaning - to do nothing) with those that are walking disorderly.**
 - a. **Brethren and friends, there is a difference between one who is unruly and one who is walking disorderly.**
 - b. **The disorderly are “out of step.” They know the truth and choose not to walk in the ways of it. Action is needed immediately to restore such a one and if one is not repentant, then action is needed to mark such a one.**

2 Thess 3:6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

2 Thess 3:14 And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.

4. **In The Christian Race.**

- A. **We all will have hardships and difficulties to meet.**
- B. **Our race to heaven is a continuous race. We must run to the very end. Therefore let us run with patience and let us with patience, help others finish the race.**

Heb 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Matt 24:12-13 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

5. **With Regard To Each Other.**

- A. **We should strive to be peacemakers.**

Matt 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

- 1) **Certainly peace rules the day when Christ rules the mind.**
- B. **We should be patient with one another in love.**
Ephesians 4:1-3

6. **In Waiting For Our Reward.**

A. **Paul said:**

Rom 8:24-25 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

B. **Once again, the farmer is given as an illustration by James.**

James 5:7-8 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. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

C. **The Lord will come when He is ready.**

1 Thessalonians 5:3-6

The Cause of Patience

1. **We receive and learn patience through tribulations.**

Rom 5:3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

2. **Examples of others move us to learn patience.**

Heb 6:12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

A. **We can apply this to the examples of Christ, the prophets, and Job as we previously mentioned.**

