

Memory Verse

Romans 5:3

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance (*patience*)...

GRACELIFE CHURCH



GOD'S PURPOSES IN PAIN - PART 5

FOR PATIENCE

We have seen the importance of having a **Biblical view of God's character** as a foundation for life. God **Proves** or **tests** us, **Purifies** us, and as we saw *last time*, He brings us to and through trials to help us **Progress** in the *faith*. His *goal* is to make us *mature*, and maturity is measured by *how much we think, act, speak and respond like Jesus.*

A. What is Patience?

*Different words from the Hebrew and Greek are translated as: **patience**, **steadfastness**, **endurance**, or **words related**. One Greek definition based in James 1:3 - for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness (**patience**), is "remaining under, endurance; steadfastness, especially as God enables the believer to "remain (endure) under" the challenges He allots in life."*

A. What is Patience?

- 1. Having the quality of enduring; physically able to suffer or bear.**
- 2. Undergoing pains, trials, or the like, without murmuring or fretfulness... long-suffering.**
- 3. Constant in pursuit or exertion; persevering; calmly diligent; as, patient endeavor.**
- 4. Expectant with calmness, or without discontent; not hasty; not overeager; composed.**
- 5. Forbearing; long-suffering.**

From: <http://www.freidictionary.com/patient>

A. What is Patience?

While there are *nuances to these definitions*, the basic definition of patience is *being able to undergo or persevere under suffering*.

Another word is **endurance**. Also, being patient involves *having a good attitude*. This is often more difficult than enduring a trial. It is easier to grit our teeth, and go through something than to joyously go through difficulty, trusting the Lord.

B. What Scripture Says

James 5:10-11 - As an example of suffering and **patience**, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

11Behold, we consider those blessed who remained **steadfast**. You have heard of the **steadfastness** of Job, and you have seen the **purpose** of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

B. What Scripture Says

Proverbs 19:11 - A person's insight gives him **patience**, and his virtue is to overlook an offense. (CSB) - Good sense makes one **slow to anger**, and it is his glory to overlook an offense. (ESV)

B. What Scripture Says

Romans 5:3-5 - Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that **suffering produces endurance (*patience*)**, 4and **endurance produces character, and character produces hope,** 5and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

B. What Scripture Says

Psalm 27:14 - Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; ***wait*** for the LORD!

Isaiah 40:30-31 - Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;
31but they who *wait* for the LORD shall renew their *strength*; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

B. What Scripture Says

Job is probably the oldest "book" in the Bible. It was *about a man* who lived either before or during the time of Abraham. Some say this was written by Moses.

Job 1:1 - There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

B. What Scripture Says

He had a *large family* and was a *rich man*. In **verses 6-12**, God allowed satan to test Job, after *God brought up his name!* In **13-19** Job lost all 10 of his children. *At the same time*, he *lost most his wealth*, which were livestock. What was his response?

B. What Scripture Says

Job 1:20-22 - Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. 21And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. **The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away;** blessed be the name of the LORD.” 22In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

B. What Scripture Says

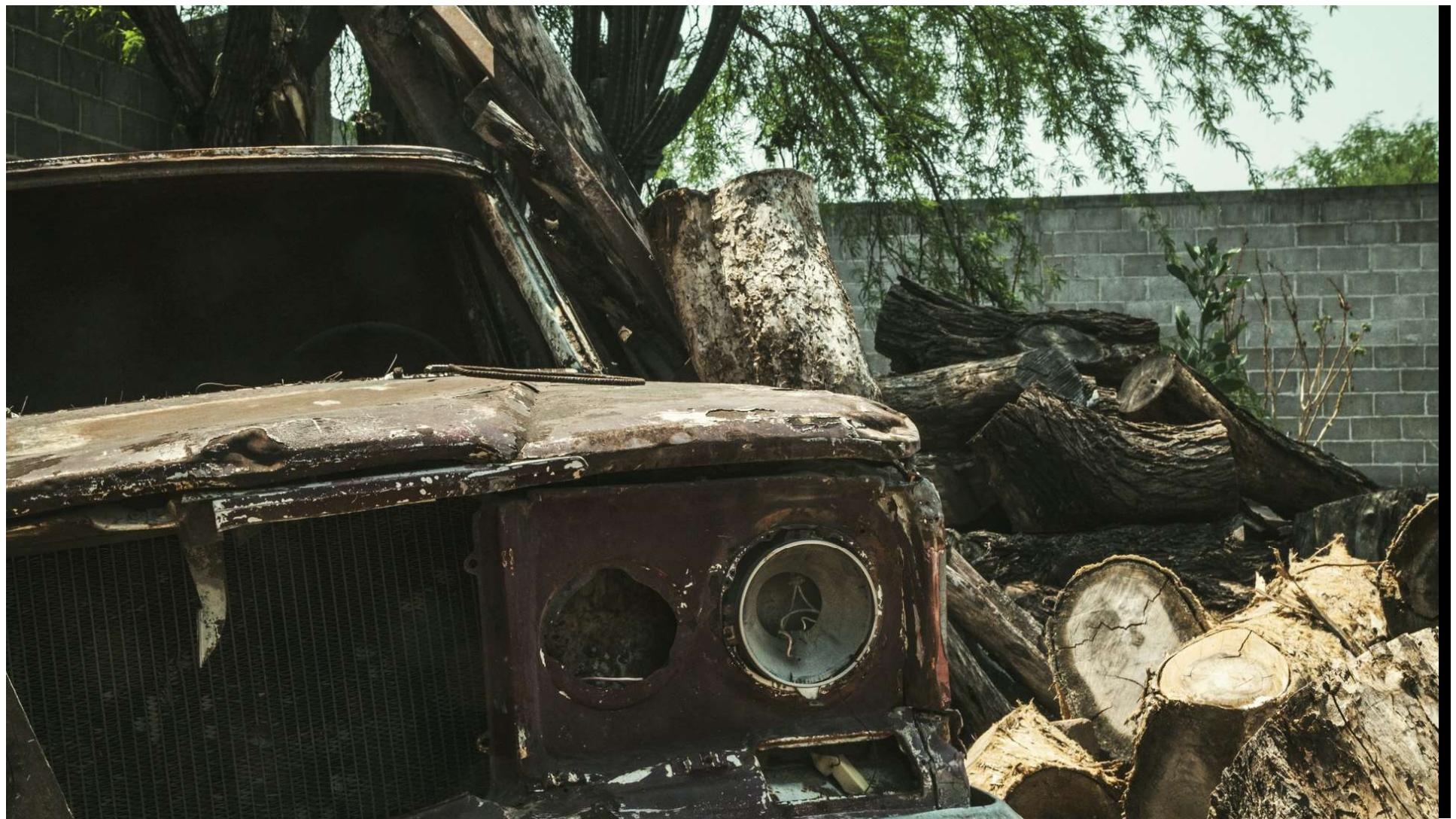
Starting in **chapter 2**, satan is allowed to *inflict Job with sores that itched mercilessly*. He *lost his health*. Enter Job's 3 friends, who begin the dialogue that *transitions to the rest of the book*, culminating in God's questions to Job and Job's prayer for his friends. Job, *as best as he could without having the Bible*, had a **Biblical view of God**. While his knowledge was limited, *he trusted the Lord*.

B. What Scripture Says

Being patient **doesn't mean we are lazy**, and **don't do anything**. While there **are** times when we are ***completely helpless***, Scripture speaks of ***active patience***. ***Waiting on the Lord***, does not mean we ***sit and do nothing*** most of the time.

B. What Scripture Says

He who began a good work in you WILL complete it or bring it to completion at the day of Christ - ***Philippians 1:6***. Don't forget that God tells us to: *pray, read, study, fellowship, love, evangelize, care for others, worship Him, proclaim the truth, trust Him, be faithful and more!* We need to fulfill our responsibilities too. He uses secondary causes to *fulfill His plan*.



C. How do We Gain Patience Through Trials?

While there really is no formula for being patient, there are principles that can help you and me to *depend on God* and *keep our eyes on Him* during those times. One principle is:

For us to learn patience, we must go through situations where we must be patient!

C. How do We Gain Patience Through Trials?

1. Pray for Wisdom

James 1:2-8 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3for you know that the testing of your faith produces **steadfastness (patience)**. 4And let **steadfastness** have its full effect, that you may be **perfect** and **complete**, lacking in nothing. 5If any of you **lacks wisdom**, let him

C. How do We Gain Patience Through Trials?

1. Pray for Wisdom

ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

C. How do We Gain Patience Through Trials?

1. Pray for Wisdom

James talks about various "colors" of *trials* we face and connects that with *asking God for wisdom*. One is, *using truth to make wise decisions, based on a Biblical perspective*. When we go *through difficulties*, we need to know how to make decisions and look at things from God's perspective rather than our own.

C. How do We Gain Patience Through Trials?

1. Pray for Wisdom

We don't just ask for wisdom. We ask in faith, trusting God will give us the wisdom we need at that moment to do the right thing in His eyes. This is where faith and self-discipline come in. It takes discipline to pray when we are going through difficulties and to trust God. It takes discipline to believe what He says in His word! It takes discipline to seek for wisdom...

C. How do We Gain Patience Through Trials?

2. Pray for Strength

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 - For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. 9Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but

C. How do We Gain Patience Through Trials?

2. Pray for Strength

on God who raises the dead. 10He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

C. How do We Gain Patience Through Trials?

2. Pray for Strength

In Asia Minor, or modern-day Turkey, Paul faced *horrible situations* beyond his and others strength. In themselves, *could not handle those problems.*

C. How do We Gain Patience Through Trials?

3. Pray for Help

2 Corinthians 1:11 - You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

C. How do We Gain Patience Through Trials?

3. Pray for Help

The *verse right after the verses for strength* include **Paul's request for prayer** for him and his companions! Paul knew he needed God's help, and needed their help. God *places people into our lives* to help us get through difficulties.

C. How do We Gain Patience Through Trials?

4. Pray to God

Hebrews 12:1-6 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the **founder and perfecter** of our faith, who for the **joy** that

C. How do We Gain Patience Through Trials?

4. Pray to God

was set before him endured the cross,
despising the shame, and is seated at the
right hand of the throne of God. 3Consider
him who endured from sinners such hostility
against himself, so that you may not grow
weary or fainthearted.

C. How do We Gain Patience Through Trials?

4. Pray to God

Keeping our eyes on Jesus, the initiator and completer of our faith, helps us gain patience, with joy, in problems. Yes, when we pray for wisdom, strength and help we are praying to God. But remember to whom we are praying! He is the One whom we began with in this series. Remember God's character. Remember what Jesus endured for us...