

The Practice of Patience

Colossians 1:9-12

Series: Patience
**Title: The Practice of
Patience**

Text: Colossians 1:9-12
Date: August 4, 2024

Exodus 34:6 Then Yahweh passed by in front of him and called out, "Yahweh, Yahweh God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth

Slow to anger (patience): the perfection which describes God's choice to _____ offence and _____ from inflicting His fullness of wrath against sin, all in perfect tranquility.

Point: the _____ of God displayed in His patience is worthy of all our worship and essential for the salvation of sinners.

Matthew 18:23–30 For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold,

along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. Therefore, the slave fell *to the ground* and was prostrating himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' And feeling compassion, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began to choke him*, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' So, his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and was pleading with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.

Point: the greatest reason to show great patience when sinned against is because God has shown us _____ patience towards our sin.

The Nature of Patience:

“patience” – *“makrothumia”*: being long-tempered or far-passioned towards difficult people or difficult circumstances.

Four elements of Patience:

- 1. Patience chooses to _____ something that would cause a negative change.**

James 5:8–9 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not groan, brothers, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged.

2. Patience _____ from retaliation.

Romans 12:19 never taking your own revenge, beloved— instead leave room for the wrath of *God*. For it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.

3. Patience is _____ of one’s feelings and actions.

Proverbs 16:32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his own spirit, than he who captures a city.

- “rules” – is lord over; dominates; reigns over.
- “his own spirit” – will, emotions, thoughts, etc.

4. Patience does not prioritize or depend on the _____ of the offender.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

“with everyone” – to or towards all; specifically the church.

The Opposite (Enemy) of Patience:

Galatians 5:19–21 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

“outbursts of anger” – *thumos*: a violent movement to anger, wrath; biblical usage implies suddenness.

“anger” – *orge*: typically refers to a passion or mental bent of anger; something felt or settled internally within a person.

Ephesians 4:26 Be angry, and *yet* do not sin

The Practice of Patience:

Colossians 1:1-12:

- _____ Paul is praying (v.1-8).
- _____ Paul is praying for (v.9-12).

The Request: be filled with the full knowledge of His will (v.9).

Colossians 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

- “filled” – *pleroo*: complete, made full, or totally controlled by.
- “in all spiritual wisdom and understanding” – types of things Paul wants them to know fully.

The Result: live worthy of the Lord (v.10-12).

Colossians 1:10 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects

- “walk” – Paul’s favorite metaphor for living.

- “worthy” – *axios*: in a manner befitting or deserving of someone or something; suitably, fittingly.
- “of the Lord” – Jesus specifically in this context; the example and character of Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1–2 Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called

What does it look like to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord?

Colossians 1:10–12 bearing fruit in every good work and multiplying in the full knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Walking worthy means:

- Producing fruit in all good work (v.10).
- Growing in the full knowledge of God (v.10).
- Strengthened by God to all endurance and patience with joy (v.11).
- Giving thanks to God for His work (v.12).

Colossians 1:11 being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

1. Patience _____ the life that walks worthy of Christ.

Ephesians 4:1–2 Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

2. Patience _____ on the strength of God through the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience...

- “strengthened in all power” – made able or strong.
- “according to His glorious might” – limitless and immense

3. Patience that flows from the power of God is shown with _____.

“patience with joy” – patience that rejoices in God.

Conclusion:

Colossians 3:12 So, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, *and* patience

“put on” – clothe, array.

Point: _____ patience, for the God who chose you, saved you, and loves you desires the patience He showed you to pervade your life.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What is the opposite of patience according to Galatians 5:20? Why is patience hard to have and its opposite easy to show?**
- 2. What does it mean to “walk worthy of the Lord?” Describe the four evidences of walking worthy that Paul highlights (Colossians 1:10-12).**
- 3. What are the four elements of patience? What does each of them emphasize about patience for us to know and apply?**
- 4. Why does patience require God’s strength? What does it mean that patience is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)?**
- 5. How would your relationships change in the following areas (if applicable) if patience was practiced more regularly: church, marriage, parenting, work, and discipleship?**

Blanks: endure, refrain, goodness, greater, endure, refrains, control, merit, Why, What, marks, relies, joy, put on