

Patience

A. Defined – The ability to put up with provocation. Greek words are *macrothumeo*, *macrothumia*, and *macrothumos*.

B. Its development

1. Galatians 5:22-23 cp. 5:16 – It is one of the 9 key aspects of the fruit of the Holy Spirit and is produced by walking in the Spirit, i.e. living under His control and trusting Christ for other aspects of our life (Galatians 3:1-3).
2. 1 Corinthians 13:4 – It is a key character quality of genuine love.

C. Its outworking in our lives

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:14 – We are to be patient with all people and not just the ones who do not irritate us.
2. Hebrews 6:15 – For the promises and principles of God's word to work out in our lives, we must patiently wait for God.
3. 2 Corinthians 6:6 cp. 6:4 – This is how we show ourselves to be servants of God.
4. Ephesians 4:2 – Patience is important in living in a manner worthy of our calling (cp. 4:1) and in showing forbearance toward other believers. Forbearance involves tolerance of qualities which do not disobey God's word which irritate us.
5. 2 Timothy 4:2 – We need to be in a church where God's word is preached in a teaching and patient style. Too many pastors have resorted to other tactics. There are those who lack patience and who use God's word as a club rather than to persuade, confront and exhort. Then there are those who leave out God's word or minimize it. What is needed is instruction and a pastor who is willing to wait patiently for God to work.
6. Colossians 3:12 – Because God has chosen us, set us apart for His purposes and made us special objects of His love, patience stands as a important quality in our lives, in our hearts and thought life.

D. Patience as an example to copy and to model

1. 2 Timothy 3:10 – Patience is important to copy and to model in view of the perilous times in which we live.
2. Hebrews 6:12 – If we want to experience God's promises, we must not become sluggish (same Greek word is translated "dull" in Hebrews 5:11) so

that we fail to move forward in our Christian life. Rather we must imitate those who believe God's word about what He promises and wait patiently for it to come to pass. Abraham is an example of this (6:15).

3. James 5:10 – A good example of people who were patient in the face of unjust suffering were the Old Testament prophets. The willingness to suffer unjustly is a large weakness of American Christians.

E. Patience needs to be a matter of prayer.

- Colossians 1:11 – We need to pray for other believers to be strengthened by God's complete power to be patient.

F. Patience in relation to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ

- James 5:7-8 – We need to be patient in view of Christ's return regarding how the wealthy and powerful run over people (cp. 5:1-6). We need to use the time to strengthen our heart or our thought life.