

Patience v Restlessness

Intro

Illustration of eating the frozen chocolate chip cookie

I. A Definition of Patience

Patience is accepting a difficult situation without giving a deadline to remove it.

Patience is the ability to put up with people you'd like to put down.

Patience is waiting without worrying.

Patience is the companion of wisdom. St Augustine

Patience is something you admire greatly in the driver behind you, but not in the one ahead of you.

Patience is the will to wait.

II. The Biblical words:

A. Suffer long, have patience – (μακροθυμέω *makrothumeo* – Matt 18:26, 29; Luke 18:7; 1 Cor 13:4; 1 Thess 5:14; Heb 6:15; James 5:7-8; 2 Peter 3:9

(Mat 18:26 NIV) "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'

(Mat 18:29 NIV) "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

(Luke 18:7 NIV) And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

(1 Cor 13:4 NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

(1 Th 5:14 NIV) And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

(Heb 6:15 NIV) And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

(James 5:7-8 NIV) Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. {8} You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

(2 Pet 3:9 NIV) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

B. Longsuffering, patience – (μακροθυμία *makrothumia*) – Rom 2:4; 9:22; 2 Cor 6:6; Gal 5:22; Eph 4:2; Col 1:1; 3:12; 1 Tim 1:16; 2 Tim 3:10; 4:2; Heb 6:12; James 5:10; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 3:15)

(Rom 2:4 NIV) Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

(Rom 9:22 NIV) What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath--prepared for destruction?

(2 Cor 6:6 NIV) in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;

(Gal 5:22 NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

(Eph 4:2 NIV) Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

(Col 1:1 NIV) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

(Col 3:12 NIV) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

(1 Tim 1:16 NIV) But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

(2 Tim 3:10 NIV) You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,

(2 Tim 4:2 NIV) Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

(Heb 6:12 NIV) We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

(James 5:10 NIV) Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

(1 Pet 3:20 NIV) who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

(2 Pet 3:15 NIV) Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

C. Stand firm, endure, persevere, be patient – (ὑπομένω *hupomeno*) translated “endureth” in the KJV – Matt 10:22; 24:13; Mark 13:13; 1 Cor 13:7; 2 Tim 2:10, 12; Heb 10:32; 12:2-3, 7; James 1:12; 5:11; 1 Peter 2:20

(Mat 10:22 NIV) All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

(Mat 24:13 NIV) but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

(Mark 13:13 NIV) All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

(1 Cor 13:7 NIV) It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

(2 Tim 2:10 NIV) Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

(2 Tim 2:12 NIV) if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us;

(Heb 10:32 NIV) Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering.

(Heb 12:2-3 NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. {3} Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

(Heb 12:7 NIV) Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

(James 1:12 NIV) Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

(James 5:11 NIV) As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

(1 Pet 2:20 NIV) But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

D. Patience, endurance, - (ὑπομονή, *hupomone*) – Luke 8:15; 21:19; Rom 2:7; 5:3-4; 8:25; 15:4-5; 2 Cor 1:6; 6:4; 12:12; Col 1:11; 1 Thess 1:3; 2 Thess 1:4; 2 Thess 3:5; 1 Tim 6:11; 2 Tim 3:10; Titus 2:2; Heb 10:36; 12:1; James 1:3-4; 5:11; 2 Peter 1:6; Rev 1:9; 2:2-3, 19; 3:10; 13:10; 14:12

(Luke 8:15 NIV) But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

(Luke 21:19 NIV) By standing firm you will gain life.

(Rom 2:7 NIV) To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

(Rom 5:3-4 NIV) Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; {4} perseverance, character; and character, hope.

(Rom 8:25 NIV) But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

(Rom 15:4-5 NIV) 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. {5} May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus,

(2 Cor 1:6 NIV) If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.

(2 Cor 6:4 NIV) Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses;

(2 Cor 12:12 NIV) The things that mark an apostle--signs, wonders and miracles--were done among you with great perseverance.

(Col 1:11 NIV) being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully

(1 Th 1:3 NIV) We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

(2 Th 1:4 NIV) Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

(2 Th 3:5 NIV) May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

(1 Tim 6:11 NIV) But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

(2 Tim 3:10 NIV) You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,

(Titus 2:2 NIV) Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

(Heb 10:36 NIV) You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

(Heb 12:1 NIV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

(James 1:3-4 NIV) because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. {4} Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

(James 5:11 NIV) As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

(2 Pet 1:6 NIV) and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

(Rev 1:9 NIV) I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

(Rev 2:2-3 NIV) I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. {3} You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

(Rev 2:19 NIV) I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

(Rev 3:10 NIV) Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

(Rev 13:10 NIV) If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

(Rev 14:12 NIV) This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

E. Forbearance, patience – (ἀνοχή, *anokhay*) – Rom 2:4; 3:25

(Rom 2:4 NIV) Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience (ἀνοχή, *anokhay* – KJF = forbearance), not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

(Rom 3:25 NIV) God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance (*anokhay*) he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished--

III. The Examples of Patience

A. Job – James 5:11

(James 5:11 NIV) As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

B. Abraham – Genesis 12; Hebrews 6:11-20

(Heb 6:15 NIV) And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

C. Joseph – Genesis 37-50

D. David – 1 Samuel 16

(1 Sam 16:19 NIV) Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."

E. Paul – Acts 9:15-16; 13:2

(Acts 9:15-16 NIV) But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. {16} I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

(Acts 13:2 NIV) While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

IV. The Patience of God – Rom 2:4; 3:25; 2 Cor 1:5-7; 1 Peter 3:18-22; 2 Peter 3:9; 3:13-16; Isa 7:13

(Rom 2:4 NIV) Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience (*ἀνοχῆ*, *anokhay* – KJF = forbearance), not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

(Rom 3:25 NIV) God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance (*anokhay*) he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished--

(2 Cor 1:5-7 NIV) For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. {6} If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. {7} And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort

(1 Pet 3:18-22 NIV) For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, {19} through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison {20} who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, {21} and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, {22} who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

(2 Pet 3:9 NIV) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

(2 Pet 3:13-16 NIV) But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. {14} So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. {15} Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God

gave him. {16} He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Patience of God tried

(Isa 7:13 NIV) Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also?"

V. The Necessity of Patience

A . Commands to be patient – Ps 37:7; Rom 12:12; Eph 4:1-3; Col 3:2; 1 Thess 5:14; 1 Tim 6:11; James 5:7-11; Heb 10:36

(Psa 37:7 NIV) Be still before the LORD and **wait patiently for him**; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

(Rom 12:12 NIV) Be joyful in hope, patient (*hupomeno*) in affliction, faithful in prayer.

(Eph 4:1-3 NIV) As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. {2} Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. {3} Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

(Col 3:2 NIV) Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

(1 Th 5:14 NIV) And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

(1 Tim 6:11 NIV) But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

(James 5:7-11 NIV) Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. {8} You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. {9} Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! {10} Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. {11} As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

(Heb 10:36 NIV) You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

B. Admonitions on patience – Ps 40:1; Prov 14:29; 15:18; 16:32; 19:11; 25:15; Eccl 7:8; Rom 8:24-25; 2:7; 5:3-4; 2 Cor 6:4; 12:12; Gal 5:22; Col 1:10-12; 3:12-13; 1 Thess 5:14; 2 Thess 1:4; 3:5; 2 Tim 3:10; 4:1-3; James 1:3-4; Heb 12:1; Rev 1:9; Rev 2:2-3, 19; 3:10; 14:12-13

(Psa 40:1 NIV) For the director of music. Of David. A psalm. I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.

(Prov 14:29 NIV) A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.

(Prov 15:18 NIV) A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.

(Prov 16:32 NIV) Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.

(Prov 19:11 NIV) A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

(Prov 25:15 NIV) Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

(Eccl 7:8 NIV) The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride.

(Rom 8:24-25 NIV) For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? {25} But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

(Rom 2:7 NIV) To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

(Rom 2:7 KJV) To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

(Rom 5:3-4 NIV) Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance (*hupomone*); {4} perseverance, character; and character, hope.

(Rom 5:3-4 KJV) And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; {4} And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

(2 Cor 6:4 NIV) Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance (*hupomone*); in troubles, hardships and distresses;

(2 Cor 12:12 NIV) The things that mark an apostle--signs, wonders and miracles--were done among you with great perseverance (*hupomone*).

(Gal 5:22 NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience (*makrothumia* – longsuffering, patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

(Col 1:10-12 NIV) And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, {11} being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully {12} giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

(Col 3:12-13 NIV) 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.

(1 Th 5:14 NIV) And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

(2 Th 1:4 NIV) Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

(2 Th 3:5 NIV) May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

(2 Tim 3:10 NIV) You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,

(2 Tim 4:1-3 NIV) In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: {2} Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. {3} For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

(James 1:3-4 NIV) because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. {4} Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

(Heb 12:1 NIV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

(Rev 1:9 NIV) I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

(Rev 2:2-3 NIV) I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. {3} You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

(Rev 2:19 NIV) I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

Church in Philadelphia

(Rev 3:10 NIV) Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

(Rev 13:9-10 NIV) He who has an ear, let him hear. {10} If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

(Rev 14:12-13 NIV) This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus. {13} Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

VI. The Conditions for Patience

A. Receive the new birth – 2 Cor 5:17

(2 Cor 5:17 NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

(2 Cor 5:17 NKJV) Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

B. Be filled with the Holy Spirit – Fruit of the Spirit – Eph 5:18; Gal 5:22

(Gal 5:22 NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

(Eph 5:18 NIV) Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Patience is a fruit, not a gift. Gifts can be given instantly, but fruit grows slowly.

C. Wait upon the Lord – Isa 40:28-31

(Isa 40:28-31 NIV) Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. {29} He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. {30} Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; {31} but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Those who wait on the Lord will run without the weight of sin.

Ludwig Nommensen, a pioneer missionary to the Batak tribesmen (Indonesia), was told that he could only stay for two years. During this time he studied the customs and traditions that rules the people. At the end of the time the chief asked him if there was anything in the Christian religion that differed from the traditions of the Batak. "We, too, have laws that say we must not steal, not take our neighbor's wife, nor bear false witness," the chief said.

The missionary answered quietly, "My Master gives the power to keep His laws." The chief was startled. "Can you teach my people that?", he asked. "No, I cannot, but God can give them that power if they ask for it and listen to His Word."

The missionary was then permitted to stay another six months. During this time he taught just one thing - the power of God. At the end of that time, the chief said, "Stay: your law is better than ours. Ours tells us what we ought to do. Your God says, 'Come, I will walk with you and give you strength to do the good thing.' "

From the patient, focused and devoted ministry of this pioneer missionary, the Lord was pleased to raise up some 450,000 Batak Christians, with their own independent church organizations. - Commission

D. Accept hardship with grace – James 1:2-4

Small annoyances

"To become long-suffering one has to be long-bothered – Manford George Gutzke
In a lifetime we will spend 6 months at stoplights

Overwhelming tragedy

(James 1:2-4 NIV) Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, {3} because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. {4} Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

E. Ask God to show you how to practice patience – James 4:1-3

(James 4:1-3 NIV) What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? {2} You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. {3} When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

F. Consistently do the right thing – 1 Tim 4:7-8

(1 Tim 4:7-8 NIV) Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. {8} 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.

I believe God wants us to be successful ... and yet success is not always obvious. The Chinese bamboo tree does absolutely nothing--or so it seems--for the first four years. Then suddenly, sometime during the fifth year, it shoots up ninety feet in sixty days. Would you say that bamboo tree grew in six weeks, or five years? I think our lives are akin to the Chinese bamboo tree. Sometimes we put forth effort, put forth effort, and put forth effort ... and nothing seems to happen. But if you do the right things long enough, you'll receive the rewards of your efforts. -- Truett Cathy, Founder of Chick-fil-A (Leadership, Vol. 7, no. 3.)

VII. The Reward of Patience – 2 Peter 1:5-8; Romans 5:3-5; James 1:4

(2 Pet 1:5-8 NIV) For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; {6} and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; {7} and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. {8} For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The reward for the will to wait is worth it. The fruit of patience is endurance and the fruit of endurance is continuity and the fruit of continuity is life. There is no life without patience. Get a life. Get patience.

(Rom 5:3-5 NIV) Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; {4} perseverance, character; and character, hope. {5} And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

(James 1:4 NIV) Perseverance (patience) must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.