

# Patience





## Core Truth: God gives PATIENCE!

Scripture: "I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry." Psalm 40:1

patience

Let's talk about what patience is. Patience is being okay with having to wait, push through hard times, or uncomfortable things without getting angry or upset. Patience can be HARD. Patience can take time. But we know, that God gives us patience, so we CAN be patient. Being patient may look like having to play a game while you wait for dinner to be ready, rather than throwing a fit and yelling at someone to hurry up. It may be having to sit through a sister's dance recital when you would rather be anywhere else.

We know from this verse that the Lord asks us to wait patiently. Sometimes we may have to wait on Him. That can be hard, but it *is* possible. Wait patiently! Does that mean wait while crying and screaming? No. It means to wait without getting upset. Patience can be hard to learn, but we know that we can do it because God gives us patience through the Fruit of the Spirit.

**God gives PATIENCE!**

## **Let's Talk About It!**

How has God shown us patience?

- When we disobey, He is still there for us.
- When we are not honoring God, He still loves us.
- He gives us a lot of chances.

## **Apply It!**

What are some things we can be patient for?

- Things to go our way.
- To get the things we want.
- People to do what we want them to do.

## **Prayer**

Dear God,

Thank You so much for providing us with patience when we need it. Give us more and more patience so that we can love those around us and sit through uncomfortable situations without getting upset. Patience is hard, but we know You provide it to us. Thank You for that. We love You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

~ Rebecca Robertson Holloway

## Patience in the Bible

Perhaps you have heard the phrase “the patience of Job” used to describe someone who is patiently suffering through something. Job lost his house, his wealth, his children, his crops, his health and more. He patiently waited for God to bring him answers and to make things right. His “patience” is an example for all.

There are many more people in the Bible who showed patience. This is not an exhaustive list. You may think of other examples found in scripture. Here are some of the people in the Bible who showed patience—along with a very short description. If you don’t know their stories, be sure and read them for yourself.

**Noah**—patiently worked for years to build the ark even though he had never seen it rain. Genesis 6:8 - 7:17

**Abraham and Sarah**—were childless but were promised to become a great nation. Isaac wasn’t born until Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90. Genesis 12:2 - 21:2

**Joseph**—believed God’s promise to make him a leader of his people and waited patiently for this promise to be fulfilled, even after being sold into slavery by his own brothers. He endured many hardships including imprisonment. Genesis 37, 39-45

**Jacob**—worked for seven years for the right to marry Rachel, then another seven years after being tricked into marrying her sister. Genesis 29

**Simeon**—was promised that he would not see death until he saw the Messiah. Luke 2:25-35

There are many more. What examples did you think of?





**Waiting for Cake**  
Pencil Drawing  
Heather Sugg

## Praying for Patience

“Lord, give me patience, but give it to me right now!”

How often have we heard someone say that? Or this?

“Don’t ask for patience! God will send something terrible your way to teach you patience!”

Hmmmm. I really don’t think that’s the way God works. Do you?

Really?

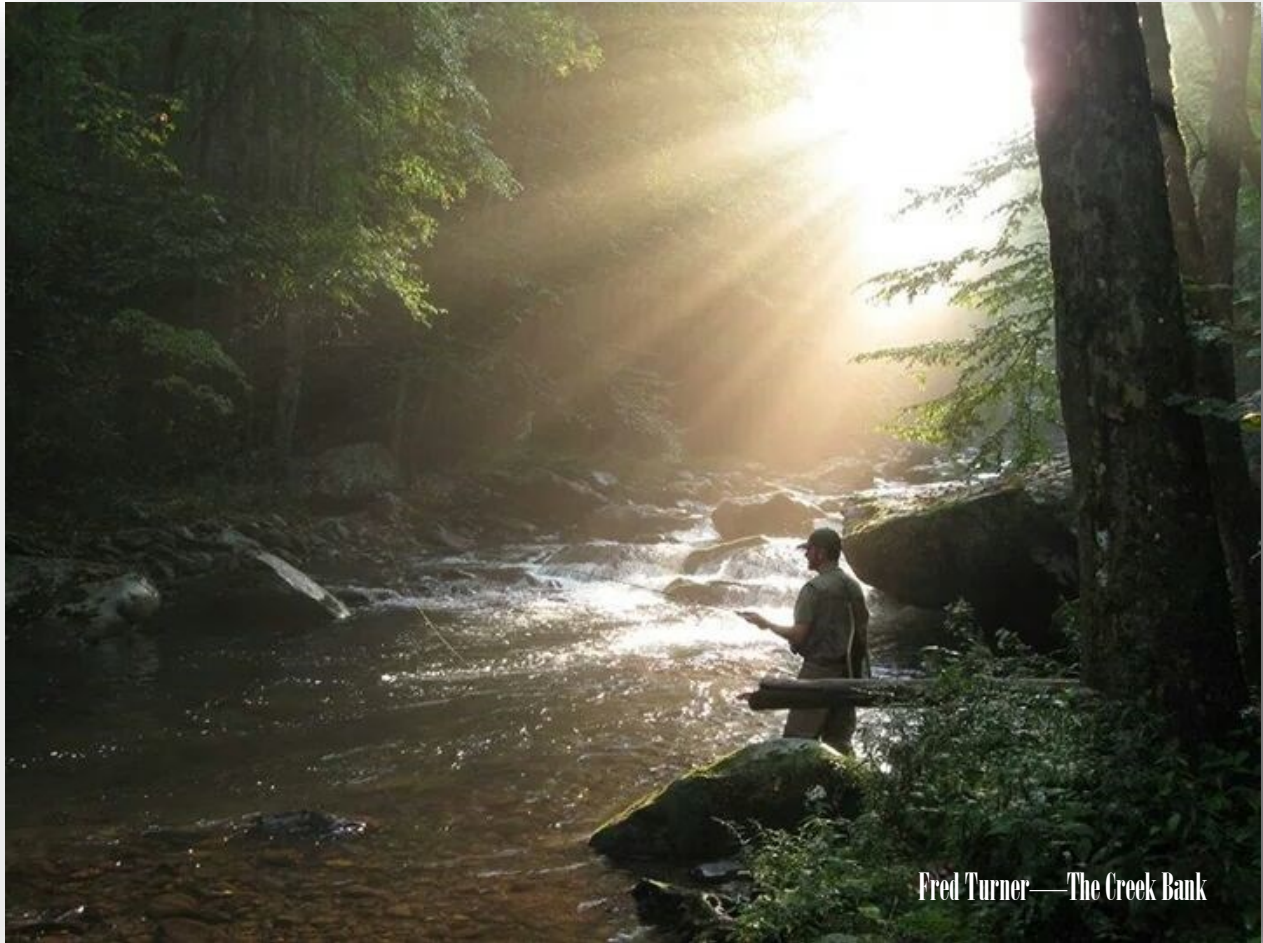
We live in a fallen, broken world and bad things happen all of the time: sickness, death, loss of income, floods and tornados, pandemics, murder hornets!—the list is endless. Perhaps when we pray for patience we just become more aware of our need for it and of our natural, fleshly lack of patience. It would be good for us to remember that Jesus said this, “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” Matthew 7:9-11

It’s not “asking for trouble” if you pray for patience. It’s admitting that the troubles of the world are difficult and that you need the power of the Holy Spirit to work in your heart and mind so that you can patiently wait for God to “work all things together for good.” Romans 8:28

Don’t fear asking God for patience to deal with the difficulties of life. Thank Him for the Holy Spirit working in you to give you patience as you wait for Him to make all things new!

Colossians 1:11 May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience, with joy...

~ R. Lyndel Littleton



**First Light at Elkmont**  
Great Smoky Mountains

*The end of a matter is better than its  
beginning; a patient spirit is better  
than a proud spirit.*

*Ecclesiastes 7:8*



## Patience

I have a confession to make. I do not like to wait. In fact, I don't even like the sound of that word. I was the child who diligently searched to find Christmas presents to peek at them long before December 25<sup>th</sup>. I couldn't wait to finish middle school, then high school, then college, then to get married and have kids only to wish away phases of their lives to rush into the next. Staying present is incredibly difficult for me and it seems I'm always looking to the next thing. I'm grateful and impressed by those companies that have been able to master faster service and minimize my wait time to receive food, packages, internet service or test results. Why wait, when you don't have to?

As I write, our world has changed drastically due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of the conveniences we've grown accustomed to are no longer available and we are all learning to wait for things again. We're waiting on things we never dreamed we might a few weeks ago. Toilet paper, baking goods, meat, masks for protection, tests to confirm the virus, and instructions about how or when we might be able to gather together in public places again. We're waiting for haircuts, gyms to open, schools to resume, churches to meet, and numbers of confirmed cases to decline. We are even longing to be able to wait in lines at sporting events or dare I say it, the DMV.

Being confined to my home for a lengthy period of time has allowed me to binge watch a couple of television series. I have gravitated to two in particular that were set in the 1900's in Canada. As I've grieved a few of my conveniences being taken, I have had to smile at how ridiculous my "suffering" is in comparison to how life was lived 100 years ago. The characters I have enjoyed through my screen knew little of impatience. They waited on crops to grow to provide for their families each year. They mailed letters written with ink that had to dry and waited months for a reply. They waited on doctors to travel overnight to visit and only when illnesses progressed to an almost fatal point. They waited on trains or traveled by horse for days to buy material to sew the two outfits they might own.

Patience is defined as the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset. We often hear that we need to “practice” patience. I believe that is because without practice, we’ll never master it. Patience is reactionary. It is our response to something, rather than something we initiate. And we must recognize that God’s timing is eternal. Often it is in the waiting on the Lord that we grow the most. It is in that space that our faith is tested and our strength renewed. We can trust that if God has us waiting...it’s part of His plan.

I certainly don’t wish to return to a time without speedy luxuries, but I pray that this season of waiting reminds me in future days to practice a little more patience and to trust that “God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11

~ Stephani Cook



**Waiting for Lunch**  
Great Blue Heron  
Dunbar Cave



**Emergence**

Water color and gouache

Grace Sutt

*The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9*





*Psalm 8:2*

*Calli Smith*  
PHOTOGRAPHY