

The Fruit of the Spirit

Patience



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Greek synonyms for patience

Hupomone (hoop-om-on-ay)

- hupo means under
 - root word is meno (abide)
- “abide under, enduring in hope”

Makrothumia (mak-roth-oo-mee'-ah)

- makro means long
 - thumia means heat (thermos)
- “longsuffering, slow to anger”

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Makrothumia (mak-roth-oo-mee'-ah)

longsuffering does not
mean to suffer long

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Makrothumia (mak-roth-oo-mee'-ah)

- ❖ The only Greek synonym for patience used in reference to God
- ❖ Longsuffering is an attribute of God – his respect for our free-will requires longsuffering

Exodus 34:6; Numbers 14:18; Galatians 5:22

Psalms 86:15 - But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth. (NKJV)



Makrothumia (mak-roth-oo-mee'-ah)

God's longsuffering results in our salvation.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

v15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation;

Makrothumeo (the verb, used 10 times in the New Testament) and makrothumia (the noun, used 14 times)



Hupomone (hoop-om-on-ay)

The ability to endure adversity with hope in the expected

1 Thessalonians 1:3

James 1:12 - Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (NKJV)

The noun hupomone is used 32 times and the verb hopomeno 17 times in the New Testament.



- Hupomone – patience with circumstances or with things
- makrothumia – patience with people

God does not have to be patient with things or circumstances because He can change them, immediately.

God is longsuffering with people because He respects our free will.

The Bible pictures patience, not as a desperate waiting-in-doubt, but a hopeful waiting-in-confidence.



An AP-Ipsos poll suggests that patience is not a common virtue. *60%* sets 15 minutes waiting in line as the limit before getting antsy.

On the phone, it claims most can wait 5 minutes without losing patience.

And it seems people don't mellow with age. The survey found older people to be more impatient than younger people.

Humans are Naturally Impatient



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Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.
(Romans 8:7)

Patience is required in Christians

that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience (*hupomone*) and longsuffering (*makrothumia*) with joy;

(Colossians 1:10, 11)





Patience is required in Christians

My brethren, take the prophets,
who spoke in the name of the
Lord, as an example of suffering
and patience (*makrothumia*) . Indeed
we count them blessed who
endure. You have heard of the
perseverance (*hupomone*) of Job ...

(James 5:10, 11)



Patience in Witnessing

Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering (*makrothumia*) and teaching.

(2 Timothy 4:2)



Patience in Witnessing

God is longsuffering with us because He respects our free will; therefore, we must be longsuffering with others and respect their free will.

Ephesians 4:1-2



Patience in Witnessing

“Since God is a patient God, when we abandon patience, we miss the opportunity to show the world the Glory [character] of God through our lives.”

Our Daily Bread, Joe Stowell

Patience has Limits



God's longsuffering expires:

- with an individual - Acts 12:21-24;
- with peoples/nations - 1 Kings 21:20-26;
Genesis 18:20-21; 19:24

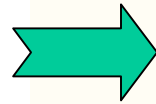
Patience has Limits



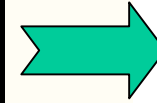
Does God understand when
I lose my patience?

Aristotle taught that the great Greek virtue was the refusal to tolerate insult and injury and to lash back in retaliation at the slightest offense. To the Greeks, the virtue was vengeance, not patience.

Patience has Limits



Disobedience



Judgment

"Time is God's patience. When God runs out of patience, we have run out of time."



Avoid Sin = Avoid God's Wrath

Galatians 5:16-17 "I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want."

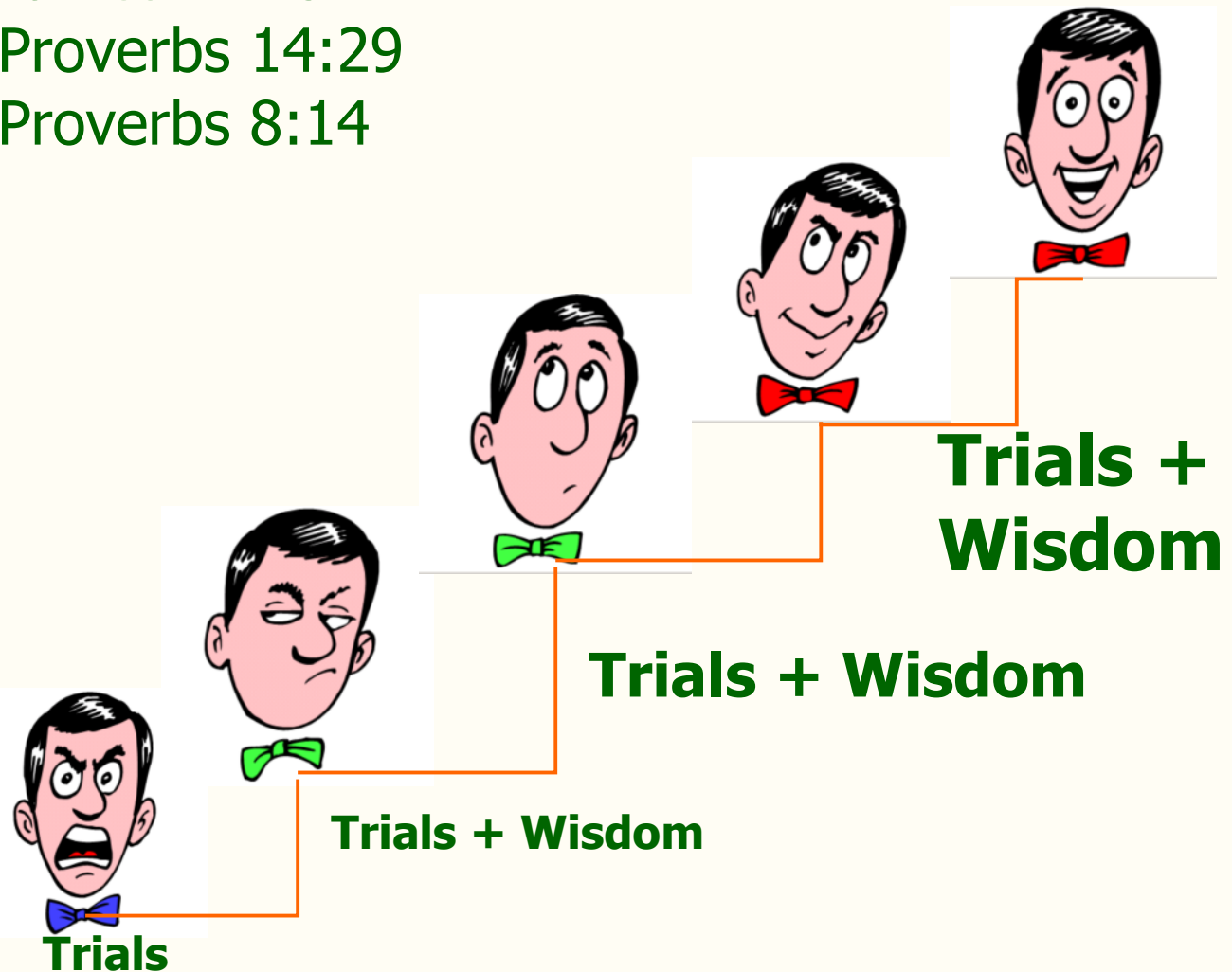
Developing Patience

- ❖ Transformation not transaction
- ❖ Internal not external
- ❖ Spiritual not mechanical



Developing Patience

James 1:2-5
Proverbs 14:29
Proverbs 8:14



His Indwelling

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; and I no longer live, but **Christ lives in me**. The life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”



“The key to everything is patience. You get the chicken by hatching the egg, not by smashing it.”

Arnold H. Glasgow, American humorist

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Wisdom and Patience - “Patience is the companion of Wisdom.”

It’s interesting to note the close relationship between patience and understanding in God’s Word. Proverbs 14:29 says, "A patient man has great understanding." What is understanding? It’s the ability to consider, to think through a situation, to grasp its meaning or significance. Understanding isn’t about reacting; it’s about being thoughtful. A patient person is a thoughtful, understanding person. There are at least two truths we’re encouraged to understand when it comes to patience. The first is the patience of God with you and me. II Peter 3:9 says, “The Lord...is patient with you, not wanting any one to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” Think of how the evil and debauchery of mankind's sin through the ages has been an affront to the perfect and holy God. Think of how the sin in your own life is an insult, an injury to Him. Why doesn’t God retaliate, avenge His glory, honor, and perfection? Because of His patience—God is a patient, long-suffering God because God is love. Understanding the magnitude of your sin’s insult and injury to God, and God's patient, longsuffering love for you will give you a proper perspective on the hurt you’ve received from another, and how you should respond to it. Second, it’s helpful to know that with understanding comes power. Proverbs 8:14 says, "Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power." The biggest problem with reacting with frustration, anger, or retaliation in any situation is that you’ve lost personal control, you are effectively powerless. For example, if Kevin comes up here and pushes me, and I push him back, why did I push Kevin? Because I was pushed. Who’s in control, who’s exercising the power in that situation? Not me! “Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power.” With understanding, you have the power to decide whether you’ll react or respond. You have the power to take the hurt and respond with patience and win the victory over anger and resentment, retaliation and revenge.

Patience and Longsuffering (experience of a Christian missionary)

My wife and I were recently faced with an experience that illustrates some of the issues in endurance and patience. In June of this year (1999), my beautiful and faithful wife of forty years was diagnosed with extreme osteoporosis which, as it turned out, was caused multiple myeloma (cancer of the plasma cells and bone marrow). My wife's oncologist prescribed a very powerful drug administered by IV to help rebuild bone but this made her very sick and caused extreme pain. As a result, her primary physician referred her to a bone specialist to see if there was another medication that she could tolerate better. We arrived at 3 p.m. for her appointment and within a few minutes were taken to an exam room to wait for the doctor. My wife was having a great deal of pain in her spine and hip when we arrived so we naturally hoped the doctor would be on time. At 4:15, we still had not seen the doctor. This was testing my wife's ability to endure the pain, but also our patience with the doctor. As we waited, I began to think some negative thoughts like, "Why can't he run his office more efficiently? Is he one of those doctors who crowds in too many patients and then spends only a few minutes with them?" But because of his reputation and my wife's need, we endured and sought to be patient by God's grace.

Finally, the doctor came in. As it turned out, he had been delayed because of an emergency and was caring for someone in great need. We were so thankful that our wait had been well worth it! The doctor was caring, concerned, careful, and extremely thorough in his evaluation of my wife's records. In addition, he demonstrated that he was on the cutting edge of many issues that concerned her problems. In essence, her consultation with this doctor was more than worth the long wait. Knowing this beforehand would certainly have made it easier to endure patiently.

Our experience reminds us of two truths. First, we need to endure life's pressures and be patient with others because, as with this doctor, we don't know what is going on behind the scenes. Remember, though Job endured, he became somewhat demanding and impatient with what God was doing, but there were things going on behind the scenes—the conflict with Satan—about which Job was totally in the dark. Interestingly, when God did deal with Job's impatience, He still never told Job about the issues of chapters 1 and 2. Job just needed to learn to rest in the sovereign God of the universe. Second, our capacity for patience strongly depends on our confidence in God's person and eternal purposes.