

Wisdom of the Bible ~ Patience ~ Discussion Questions

1. What animal do you associate with patience? Why?
2. Do you think that patience comes naturally, i.e., you have it as a child, or is it something that is learned as you get older and more mature?
3. We all lose our patience from time to time. What are some situations in which you get frustrated and lose your patience? (Stuck in traffic, baby screaming, part doesn't fit, correcting someone over and over, computer won't do what you want, etc.) Do these situations more often involve things or people?
4. Does today's society and way of living encourage one to be patient?
5. In the dictionary, "patience" has several meanings: 1) bearing pains or trials calmly and without complaining, 2) not being hasty or impetuous, 3) being steadfast despite opposition or adversity, and 4) showing forbearance under provocation or strain. We often think of patience (or being patient) as something benign (meaning #2), but the dictionary definitions and Bible imply that pain, trials, adversity, and strain may also be involved (James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 2:20, Romans 5:3-4, 12:12). Does this give you a new slant on the concept?
6. In the Bible, perseverance is often mentioned in the same verse as patience (Matthew 24:13, Romans 5:3-4, Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 10:23, 10:36, James 1:2-4). Why do these two traits go hand in hand? What is the difference between them?
7. The Bible also frequently mentions a promise along with patience and perseverance (Psalm 37:7-9, 37:34, 40:1-3, Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 6:12, 10:36, James 5:7-8). What are these promises?
8. One of my personal favorite memory verses is Psalm 37:34 [Living Bible].
Don't be impatient for the Lord to act!
Travel steadily along his path.
He will honor you, giving you the land.
You will see the wicked destroyed.
What is the important action message for you in this verse (if there is one)?
9. To do:
 - A. Pray for greater patience in specific situations where you typically lose patience.
 - B. Memorize a Bible verse on patience.

Wisdom of the Bible ~ Patience ~ Questions for Small Groups

1. If you're teaching somebody how to do something and he "just doesn't get it," are you inclined to push him aside and do the job yourself?
2. If you're stuck in traffic that is hung up on the Interstate, how does it make you feel?
3. If a baby is wailing away in a church service or at a concert and the mother seems oblivious to the child, does it make you crazy?
4. If you have prayed for something over and over and over and God just seems to be ignoring you, how do you feel?
5. If a good friend of yours is screwing up his life, do you feel tense and impatient with him?
6. In what situations are you least patient?
7. In what situations do you think you are most patient?
8. What are the main differences in situations when you are and are not patient?
9. Do you think that God has reason to be impatient with you?

Wisdom of the Bible ~ Patience ~ Scripture

Be patient, don't worry, Ruth 3:18 (CEV).
Patiently see what God will do, 1 Samuel 12:16; Psalm 37:7.
When you are angry, be patient and do not sin, Psalm 4:4. (NLT)
Don't be impatient for the Lord to act, Psalm 37:34 (LB).
Patience rewarded, Psalm 40:1-3; Isaiah 25:9; James 5:11.
Divine patience, Psalm 86:15.
Waiting patiently for the Lord, Psalm 130:5-6.
Accept the Lord's discipline, Proverbs 3:11.
Agony of waiting, joy of fulfillment, Proverbs 13:12.
Wisdom and patience go hand in hand, Proverbs 14:29, 19:11, 29:20 (NIV)
Conclusion worth waiting for, Ecclesiastes 7:8.
Proper time for every procedure, Ecclesiastes 8:6.
Testing God's patience, Isaiah 7:13.
Delay in answered prayer, Isaiah 49:8.
Patience of suffering Savior, Isaiah 53:7.
Certain God will fulfill revelation, Habakkuk 2:3.
Wait patiently for the Lord to act, Habakkuk 3:16b.
"You have worn out the Lord," Malachi 2:17 (CEV).
Growth takes time, Mark 4:28.
Patient wait for healing, John 5:1-8.
Impatience with those who reject message, Acts 18:5-6.
Suffering produces perseverance..., Romans 5:3-4
Accepting affliction patiently, Romans 12:12.
Love is patient, love is kind..., 1 Corinthians 13:4.
Endure patiently and with faith, 2 Corinthians 1:6, Revelation 3:10, 13:10.
Do not become weary in doing good, Galatians 6:9
Patient contentment in all situations, Philippians 4:11-13.
"Endure everything with patience," Colossians 1:11 (NRSV).
Be gentle, humble, patient..., Ephesians 4:2, Colossians 3:13.
Good soldiers, 2 Timothy 2:3-5.
"Put up with anything," 2 Timothy 2:10 (CEV).
Kind to everyone, 2 Timothy 2:24 (See NRSV).
Old age patience, Titus 2:2.
Patiently awaiting promise, Hebrews 6:12 (CEV).
"Having patiently waited," Hebrews 6:15 (NASB).
Eternal perspective, Hebrews 10:34.
Persevere so you can receive what God has promised, Hebrews 10:36.
Learning patience through trials, testing, James 1:2-4.
Patience "in full bloom," James 1:4 (LB).
Submission to Divine wisdom, James 4:7.
You should be patient like the farmer awaiting the harvest, James 5:7-8.
Patience of the Lord toward the lost, 2 Peter 3:9.