

WE LEARN PATIENCE UNDER PRESSURE.

Galatians 5:22

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **patience**,*

What is patience?

- Biblical patience is a God-exercised, or God-given, restraint in face of opposition or oppression. *It is not passivity.*¹
- “Patience refers to that quality of mind that disposes us “to take everything in good part and not to be easily offended.” It is the ability to put up with other people even when that is not an easy thing to do. Patience in this sense, of course, is preeminently a characteristic of God, who is “long-suffering” with his rebellious creatures.”²
- “The Christian who is long-suffering will not avenge himself or wish difficulties on those who oppose him. He will be kind and gentle, even with the most offensive, and will sow goodness where others sow evil. Human nature can never do this on its own; only the Holy Spirit can.”³ – Warren Wiersbe

James 5:10-11

*As an example of suffering and **patience**, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained **steadfast**. You have heard of the **steadfastness** of Job, and you have seen the **purpose** of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

Pressure and patience

- Live like an **ancestor** – 5:10 *As an example of suffering and **patience**, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.*
- What example do I want to leave future generations?

- The “Good Life” is not necessarily the “Easy Life” – 5:11 *Behold, we consider those **blessed** who remained **steadfast**.*
 - Think on the long-term blessing rather than the short-term **stress**.
- Remember the ones who have walked before you – 5:11 *You have heard of the **steadfastness** of Job...*

Job’s suffering

- Loss of wealth (animals).
 - Loss of health (disease).
 - Loss of **honor** (rejection by society).
 - Loss of relationships (discord with wife/friends).
- Accept that your inability to fully grasp God’s present plan does not mean there isn’t a purpose – 5:11 *and you have seen the **purpose** of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

Job 42:1-3

Then Job answered the LORD and said: ² “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³ ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.”

- Our **present** suffering is not the final chapter.

Job 42:10

And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

¹ J. W. L. Hoad, “Patience,” *The New Bible Dictionary*, 3rd ed. D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, & J. I. Packer, eds. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996) 873.

² “He is the loving Lord who in the face of obstinate infidelity and repeated rejection still says of his people, “How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel?” (Hos 11:8). Paul’s point is clear: if God has been so long-suffering with us, should we not display this same grace in our relationships with one another? This quality should characterize the life of every believer, but it has a special relevance for those who are called to teach and preach the Word of God. As Paul instructed Timothy, “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction” (2 Tim 4:2).” T. George, *Galatians*, Vol. 30 (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 402-403.

³ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, Vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 720.