



# The Harvest

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## Patience in the Waiting

The Merriam-Webster dictionary has a multitude of definitions for the word “patience” that fit quite well with the Biblical description of this attribute:

- Bearing pains or trials calmly or without complaint
- Not hasty or impetuous
- Steadfast despite opposition, difficulty, or adversity

The Bible also uses the phrase “slow to anger” interchangeably with the word “patience” frequently throughout the Scriptures.

There are a couple ways we can look at this characteristic. We can view it in terms of how to relate to other people, how we relate to God, and how we react to our circumstances.

Earlier on in this series, we learned that “*love is patient*” (1 Corinthians 13:4). When patience is enacted in our relationships with the people around us, it is a way of demonstrating love.

*“Whoever is patient has great understanding,  
But one who is quick-tempered displays folly.”  
~ Proverbs 14:29 (NIV) ~*

*“Better a patient person than a warrior,  
one with self-control than one who takes a city.”  
~ Proverbs 16:32 (NIV) ~*

We can think of patience as creating open space. When we live with patience towards the world around us, we are offer room for grace to overflow. When we speak quickly, make assumptions, respond in anger, or get defensive, we shut down conversations, prevent growth, and take the floor where the Holy Spirit otherwise would have done a good work. We rob God of the ability to speak into situations when we speak first – out of anger, frustration, and impatience.

As mentioned earlier, the second way of viewing patience is how we relate to the Lord. Waiting on the Lord increases our strength and focusses our eyes on the God who is in control rather than worrying about our circumstances.

*“Be still before Adonai  
And wait patiently for Him.”  
~ Psalm 37:7a ~*

*“Wait for Adonai.  
Be strong, let your heart take courage,  
and wait for Adonai.”  
~ Psalm 27:14 ~*

*“The Lord will fight for you; you need only be still.”*  
~ Exodus 14:14 (NIV) ~

Being patient with the Lord requires a heart shift: patience requires that we trust that God is working on our behalf, that He is good and will work all things for our good (*Romans 8:28*), and that His plans and His purpose for our lives are better than what we want in the moment. To live this out, we have to let these truths sink deep into our spirits and mold how we think and respond to every word from the Lord, every time we don’t hear Him speak, and every life circumstance.

This brings us to the last point – patience throughout all circumstances.

*“So let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we don’t give up.”*  
~ Galatians 6:9 ~

*“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some consider slowness. Rather, He is being patient toward you – not wanting anyone to perish, but for all to come to repentance.”*  
~ 2 Peter 3:9 ~

Friends, your calling make some time to develop. There may be times where you’re not sure you hear the voice of the Lord. Or, you may feel stagnant, like God is actively speaking to you but you don’t know how to move forward. Be patient! God hasn’t left you. He’s laying a foundation. He’s doing a good work in you. Wait on Him. He will fight for you and give you exactly what you need to be successful in the next stage of your life.

What area of patience do you struggle with the most? Spend some time praying and giving it over to the Lord today.

Worship: Spend some time worshipping the Lord and seeking His plan for your life.

- ~ While I Wait by Lincoln Brewster
- ~ Glory to Glory by Iron Bell Music
- ~ Throne Room Song by People & Songs

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