

Perfecting Love:
Love: Patience With God

When God Takes His Time

Love is patient... 1 Cor 13:4

Patience is the very first characteristic of love mentioned in *1 Cor 13:4-8*. Patience is the BEST place to start describing Christian love. To put on LOVE is to put on PATIENCE. In this study we'll define 'patience' and why we need to demonstrate patience with God.

A. What is Patience *Matt 18:21-35*

1. **Suffering:** Like a patient in a hospital. (Job) *Jam 5:11*
2. **Time:** "Please be patient with me," usually means give me more time. This is illustrated in the parable of the unforgiving servant *Matt 18:26...*
 - When you have patience, time is viewed as an ally not an enemy.
 - In the parable—time is given with mercy
 - A huge debt is forgiven
 - The servant is given all of his time to use as he will, without obligation
 - But as a recipient of patience—what does he do? :28
 - The unforgiving servant receives patience beyond measure and he gives impatience without mercy
 - The point of the parable is to show us how patiently God deals with us and therefore how patient we ought to deal with others.
 - God's *loving patience* abounds toward us—despite our sins.

B. Patience With God *Gen 12-25*

Patience is connected to God's dealings with man by covenant. It is a way of waiting that is associated with faith. *Heb 6:12*

What does it mean to be patient with God? It means to wait for God to keep His promises in the way, time and place that He as Sovereign Lord chooses.

1. **Abraham's Patience** *Heb 6:15*

"Then Abraham waited patiently, and he received what God had promised."

- Abraham did not simply wait; he waited patiently
- Abraham was called the 'friend' of God *Isa 41:8*
- There is often a gap between promise and fulfillment
- Abraham 'laughed' *Gen 17:17*
- But he also obeyed *Gen 17:23*
- Birth of the promise *Gen 21*
- The surrender of the promise *Gen 22*

C. Patient With God Inventory

- Are you a 'complainer' [impatient] when things do not go your way? *Numbers 21:4-5*
- What are the 'promises' of God you stand on? *Heb 11:17-19*
- What motivates you to 'patient-love' towards God? Hint—see what motivated Abraham in *John 8:56*
- How do you react when it's clear you will NOT see the 'promise' in your lifetime? *Heb 11:13*



Put on Love

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. *Col 3:14*

1Co 12:31

But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Cor 13:1-8

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

2 And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love is patient [*long suffering*] and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails. But whether *there are prophecies*, they will fail; whether *there are tongues*, they will cease; whether *there is knowledge*, it will vanish away.