



Week 9: Sowing Patience...Being Shaped For Higher Things

Patience..."Waiting for something or someone without complaining." If we sow patience, we *will* harvest strength.

- A Brief Review of Last Week: CREATIVITY...is our ability to see, hear and feel things in the spirit realm that are yet unseen in the earthly realm.
 - **Sowing Creativity**
 - We Sow Creativity when we are **willing to do things differently**...Sowing creatively is simply allowing the Spirit of God to accomplish God's will through us...in any form He wants.
 - We Sow Creativity when we **say yes to divine problem-solving**...Even the most perplexing situations life can throw at us are not a problem for God. Remember, the essence of creativity is our ability to see, hear and feel things in the Spirit realm that are yet unseen in the earthly realm.
 - We Sow Creativity by being **unpredictable**...Allow me to introduce you to Jehovah Sneaky? Sowing creativity means that we probably won't have everything figured out ahead of time, but excitement will surely rise in our hearts when we realize God will move through our lives in the most unpredictable ways!
 - We are Sowing Creativity when when we **partner with God's wisdom**...This is one of the main keys to operating in the Issachar anointing. *From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.* (1 Chr 12:32 NLT-SE)
 - A great example of being motivated by true creativity is the recent film-making projects of **Mel Gibson**. His determined passion to reveal what is going on "behind the scenes" in the Bible seems to be driving his creativity. This appears to be the challenge he faces with his new project, "**Resurrection**."
- **What is Patience and why do we need it?**
 - **The problem with waiting:**
 - We think waiting is **accidental**. Someone made a mistake.
 - We think waiting is due to **poor management**. Someone is not doing their job.
 - We think waiting is **foolish**. Why would anyone wait for something or someone when they can have it NOW!
 - God has promised never to leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), but **nowhere** does He promise to answer all our prayers immediately, or to answer them in exactly the way we desire.
 - A common definition of **Patience**..."**the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.**"

- So, let's try and simplify the definition above...to be **PATIENT** is to **endure discomfort without complaining**. This calls into play some other virtues, specifically, self-control, humility, and generosity. Let's look at the Greek words most commonly found in the Bible describing **patience**...
 - **Patience** is the Greek word *hypomone* [Strong's #5278] which is a compound word made up of two other words: *hypo* (a preposition meaning 'under') and *moneo* (a verb meaning to 'remain' or 'abide'). In most cases, *hypomone* is translated either **patience** or **endurance** (essentially interchangeable). So, the idea is to **'remain under' or 'live under' difficult circumstances**, especially when it is impossible to escape or avoid them.
 - ¹² Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and **patience** (longsuffering, KJV). ¹³ Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. (Col 3:12–13 NLT-SE)
 - **Longsuffering** is the Greek word *makrothumia* [Strong's #3115] which is related to another compound word made up of *makros* ('long' or 'far') and *thumos* ('wrath' or 'fierceness'). Although *thumos* can mean wrath or fierceness, its usage in this compound form carries the idea of 'temper.' Thus, *makrothumia* denotes remaining in a state of **emotional quietness** in the face of challenging circumstances.
 - We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the **endurance** (patience, ESV) and **patience** (longsuffering, ESV) you need. (Col 1:11 NLT-SE)
- Although most people consider patience to be a passive waiting or gentle tolerance, most of the Greek words translated “**patience**” in the New Testament are active, even **aggressive** words. Consider, for example,
 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us **run with endurance** [gr. *hypomone*, patience] the race God has set before us. (Heb 12:1 NLT-SE)
 - Does anyone run a race by passively waiting for slow-pokes or gently tolerating cheaters? **Absolutely not!** The word translated “endurance” in this verse means “patience.” A Christian runs the race patiently by persevering through difficulties. In the Bible, **patience is persevering towards a goal, enduring trials, or expectantly waiting for a promise to be fulfilled.**
- **5 Kinds of Fruit that Comes from Sowing Patience?**
 - **Relationships become a priority**
 - Whenever people are involved, you end up with a variety of **conceptions** of what the goals are, different **capacities** to reach those goals, and different levels of **commitment** to get there. The potential for frustration and complaining always goes up when patience is required and people are involved.
 - ⁴ Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago **to teach us**. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled. ⁵ May God, who gives this **patience** and **encouragement**, help you **live in complete harmony with each other**, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. ⁶ Then all of you can **join together with one voice**, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 15:4–6 NLT-SE)
 - If we can work together, empowered by the fruit of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...Gal 5:22-23 NLT-SE) and demonstrate patience when things get tough, the fruit will be a significant deepening of our relationships.

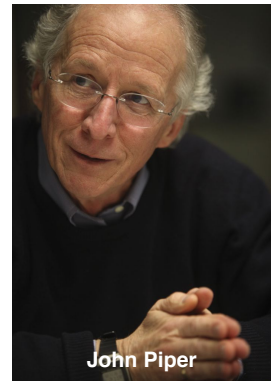
- ⁹ **Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them.** Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. (Rom 12:9–12 NLT-SE)

- **Strength is developed, which produces resolve**

- **Strength is extremely important when it comes to patience.** The more radical your assignment, the more radical the patience needed to see it through. Many people think that patient people are calm, controlled, and at peace with the world around them.

- Patience is not passive; on the contrary, it is active; it is **concentrated strength**. ~ Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton

- **Impatient people are weak**, and therefore dependent on external supports — like schedules that go just right and circumstances that support their fragile hearts. Their outbursts of oaths and threats and harsh criticisms of the culprits who crossed their plans do not sound weak. But that noise is all a camouflage of weakness. Patience demands tremendous inner strength. ~ John Piper



- **Patience is not for weaklings!** It requires tremendous resolve, fortitude, resilience, and tolerance. And even if you can muster all those things, you still might not walk in patience. The truth is, divine patience has a divine source of strength and empowerment...the power of the Holy Spirit. With out it, you're left with human effort. We all know how effective that can be in the midst trials and suffering.
- ²⁰ Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, **his faith grew stronger**, and in this he brought glory to God. ²¹ He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. (Rom 4:20–21 NLT-SE)
- Given his choice, Satan would far rather see people exercising supernatural power than loving each other. Weakness is a more disturbing phenomenon to him than strength; perseverance troubles him more than victory; and prayer that requires long waiting is far more enigmatic to him than prayer that receives immediate answers. **To the Devil and all his demons, just as to the ungodly among men, patient waiting is something incomprehensible.** ~ Mike Mason, *The Gospel According to Job*
- ³ I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. ⁴ And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. ⁵ **I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.** (1 Cor 2:3–5 NLT-SE)

- **God's Kingdom is made manifest**

- When we truly operate out of divine patience, we can end up saying and doing things that are less like us and more like Jesus. When patience manifests we, as the song says, “**slow down, take time, and breathe in.**” God will use our patience to demonstrate His kindness and His kingdom. The door opens for the restoration of kingdom hope in people's lives as the heart of the King is revealed.
- But God had mercy on me **so that Christ Jesus could use me** as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. (1 Tim 1:16 NLT-SE)
- **“I experience the joy of salvation today because Jesus chose to be patient!”**
- ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And **let us run with endurance** the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our

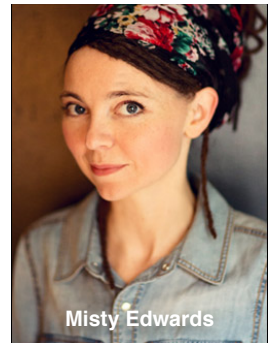
faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, **he endured the cross**, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. (Heb 12:1–2 NLT-SE)

- Same word...*hupomone!*

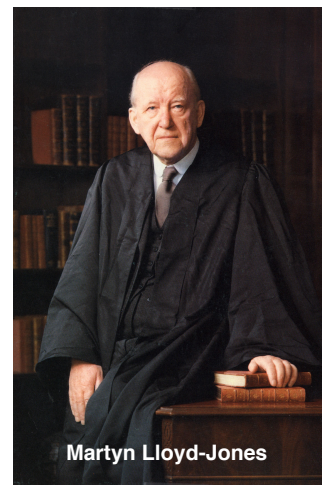
- May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the **patient endurance** that comes from Christ. (2 Th 3:5 NLT-SE)
 - Here, the KJV says, "patient waiting." The NLT doubles down and uses BOTH WORDS, "**patient endurance!**"
- Patience really requires a **biblical perspective**...you need your eyes fixed on a future that's founded on truth. Jesus had enduring patience "Because of the joy awaiting him..." was where His gaze was fixed.

• Stuff gets done

- In God's kingdom, **nothing gets done without faith.**
 - ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that **the testing of your faith produces patience.** ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2–4 NKJV)
- We are weak, and we are broken. We will stumble many times, and there are hurdles to jump in this race. All He asks is that we persevere in patience to the end. Don't give up. Don't give in. **If you don't quit, you win.** ~ Misty Edwards
- ⁴ In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God. **We patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind.** ⁵ We have been beaten, been put in prison, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, endured sleepless nights, and gone without food. ⁶ We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, **by the Holy Spirit within us**, and by our sincere love. (2 Cor 6:4–6 NLT-SE)
- **Martyn Lloyd-Jones**, the great English preacher, was asked at the end of his life, "Doesn't it bother you that you're on the shelf? You used to be preaching all the time, you were writing and now you're sick and confined to your bed. Doesn't it bother you?" He said, "**Do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**"
 - He was referring to Jesus sending out the 72 disciples in Luke 10 and them basically saying, "Wow, Lord! What a great day! "Even the demons obey us when we use your name..."
 - Jesus rebukes them with a command. "Rejoice not..." You had a good week. You will have up and down weeks. Don't rejoice because you had a little success. Otherwise, you'll beat yourself up when things don't go so well. Remember, your names are written in heaven!
 - This expectation of the our future with God gives a context for patient enduring tough times and not complaining...Our names are written in heaven!
- Man doesn't have the patience or the power to wait. **But God does.** He has all eternity to accomplish His purposes. ~ A.W. Tozer



Misty Edwards



Martyn Lloyd-Jones