

Life of Joseph

Lessons in Humility, Leadership and Forgiveness

Patience

- In our study of the Life of Joseph we have observed that Joseph was a patient man who was willing to wait for God's plan to unfold according to His perfect timing.
- We live in a post-microwave world in which everything is becoming exceedingly fast-paced (rushed).
- Because of the fast-paced nature of the world today, impatience is far more common than patience and that is often reflected in a lack of politeness and courtesy.
- In this study we will look at what the Bible has to say about patience and its importance in the life of the believer.
- As we previously noted, in his dying message to his sons Jacob reminded them of their need for patience [Gen 49:18].
- We often hear about the patience of Job, but Eliphaz questioned his patience [Job 4:1-5] and, in the end, Job admitted that he had become impatient with God [Job 21:4].
- Patience is a fruit of the Spirit [Gal 5:22].
 - It is an aspect of God's love which has been poured out in our hearts [Rom 5:5; 1 Cor 13:4].
 - It is the patience demonstrated by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [1 Tim 1:16].
 - It produces in us a genuine tolerance for others [Eph 4:2; Col 3:12-13].
- Through spiritual growth we can attain the capacity to be patient with everyone [Col 1:9-11; 1 Thess 5:14] even when we have been wronged [2 Tim 2:24; 1 Cor 13:5].
- One way we grow is by learning to follow the examples of those who patiently wait for God to fulfill His promises [Heb 6:11-15; Jas 5:10].
- Spiritual elders should be examples of patience [2 Cor 6:1-10; 2 Tim 3:10; 4:1-2].
- God is, after all, patient (and kind and tolerant) toward each of us [Rom 2:4; 1 Pet 3:18-20; 2 Pet 3:9].
- Patience is essential when enduring suffering [2 Cor 1:3-7; 1 Pet 2:19-20].
- We are to remain patient until the day when the Lord comes for His Church [Jas 5:7-8].
- An effective prayer life involves the exercise of patience [Ps 40:1-3].
- We should be patient with God even when we see others prospering through wicked schemes [Ps 37:7].
- Patience is a function of humility as we wait for the Lord [Job 35:13-14; Ps 25:3-5, 21; 27:14; 33:20; 37:9, 34; 39:7-8; 130:5-6; 147:11; Pr 20:22; Isa 25:9; 40:31; 49:23; Lam 3:25-26; Micah 7:7; 1 Cor 4:5; Jude 20-21].

- Arrogance of spirit undermines patience of spirit [Ecc 7:8].
- Conclusions
 - Patience is a characteristic of a believer walking by means of the Spirit.
 - True patience which honors and glorifies God cannot be produced by the flesh.
 - As we grow in the faith, we will learn to be patient with everyone, including those that do us wrong.
 - As we grow in the faith, we will learn to be patient in every circumstance, including suffering.
 - God is extremely patient with us, so we ought to be able to exercise patience toward Him, including regarding answers to prayer.
 - God is faithful to fulfill His promises, but it takes humility on our part to wait for His timing.
 - It pleases God when we patiently wait for Him.
 - We have tremendous examples of patience in the Scriptures, including Jesus Christ Himself.
 - We have examples of patience in the believers God has placed around us.
 - We should follow these examples of patience and grow to become an example ourselves.