

**Patience**  
**12-14-14AM**

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;  
Courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.*

This saying is one we are all familiar with. It is not a Bible passage, but it does reflect virtues the Bible states Christians are to have (Colossians 3:12). Chief among these virtues in this saying (and in Scripture too) is patience. *"(Patience) is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish. It is the opposite of anger and is associated with mercy, and is used of God."* Patience is the virtue that enables us to reap the reward of Spiritual life. Patience (also called longsuffering) is a divine quality owned by Saints. Ultimately, you can't be saved if you are impatient

When you begin searching Scriptures on patience, you realize why it is so good. Scriptures reveal that patience is where hope is achieved (1 Thessalonians 1:3), it is how spiritual fruit is made (Luke 8:15), and it is how our divine promises are fulfilled (Hebrews 6:12). Patience permits endurance; it leads to ALL rewards, such as peace and joy, something we all desire. But it is a virtue that is difficult to have, particularly if we have an immediate need for it. There are particular areas where patience is needed in our lives.

**Learning Patience with Family:** Family can cause great sorrow if they are lacking Spiritual virtues. As an example, Jesus' brothers were not believers (John 7:1-5). Scriptures indicate that they gave Him constant grief in their doubts (Mark 3:21). However, in the end His patience won them over (James 1:1, Jude 1:1). We need to know that if we are patient, people can change, particularly if we remain faithful.

**Learning Patience with Children:** ALL children are trying at times (Proverbs 22:15). Scriptures tell parents to avoid exasperating their children, a commandment of which patience is the foundation (Colossians 3:21). Just remember that ultimately, faithful parenting works (Proverbs 22:6, 15:20). Therefore, be patient in applying Spiritual principles to our children and there will be great reward.

**Learning Patience with Work:** Here is an example of patience in work: Joseph worked hard for Potiphar (Genesis 39:1-5). But his master was unfair to him (Genesis 39:11-20). Joseph remained a patient servant of God and men, and his struggle led to greater things in his life (Genesis 41:37-41). Being patient in our labors causes better things to happen in our lives.

**Learning Patience with Saints:** Let's be honest: Brethren can try our patience, as seen with Paul in 2 Corinthians 2:4. We must consider Paul's admonition to Timothy: be patient (2 Timothy 2:24-26). Ultimately, Saints are our closest family (Matthew 19:29).

**Learning Patience with Sinners:** Jesus could look upon sinner with compassion. Perhaps it was because He knows that they have been blinded (2 Corinthians 4:4). If we want to have patience with sinners, we need to remember that He had patience with us when we were sinners (Matthew 18:26-27). We must continue to preach and reveal the truth, considering the great rewards that come when someone changes (James 5:20).

Paul told Timothy *"Now godliness with contentment is great gain."* (1 Timothy 6:6). Patience is the key to that reward. So *"let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."* (Galatians 6:9)