

The Patience of God

- Ron Stullenbarger -

There is no virtue more calming than patience. A peaceful lifestyle begins with patience. Our heavenly Father perfectly models a patient heart. 2 Peter 3:8-9 says, *"But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."* God's perspective and overwhelming love for us fill His heart with incredible patience.

Think about all the atrocities, perversions, sin, and depravity God witnesses on a continual basis. He watches in pain as humanity kills, steals, lies, and cheats. He watches as those He most cares for throw away His perfect plans for cheap imitations that only cause heartache and pain. But God in His patient mercy waits to return and bring about the complete restoration of creation that all might reach repentance. God is patient because He is love.

God is not only patient in regard to the second coming of Jesus. He is wholly patient with you in regards to your sanctification and relationship with Him and others. He waits patiently as He transforms you into a reflection of Jesus by filling you with His abundant love. He knows your frame. He knows the wounds the world has caused. And He is patient with you.

Take time to slow down and take a deep breath. Carve out some space in the busyness of your life and rest in response to God's patience. He simply longs for you to take some time and be with Him. He wants to overwhelm you with His patient love that you might live free from the burdens and cares of this rushed, stressed world.

Psalm 103:8 says, *"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."*

"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable." Isaiah 40:28

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Where do you need an increase of patience today? What burden or care doesn't line up with the heavenly perspective of patience?