

Add To Your Faith
Perseverance
II Pet. 1:5-8

Introduction:

As we have continued throughout the process of adding to your faith, we can see how each of these things are needed to build on the other. To our faith we add virtue, or moral excellence. To our virtue we add knowledge of the word of God. To our knowledge we add self-control, knowing that we must always be in control of ourselves. And to our self-control, we add perseverance, or patience.

The idea of patience in verse 6 gives us the idea of not only waiting, but enduring the things that we go through. This word literally means “cheerful endurance.” We must all be patient.

- I. Examples of those who patiently endured trials.
 - A. Job (Job 1-2)
 1. Job suffered through many things for the sake of God.
 2. He lost his possessions, family and health in a short period of time.
 3. **Js. 5:11** - Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord-- that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.
 - B. Noah (Gen. 5:23-7:12)
 1. Noah preached for roughly 100 years before God destroyed the earth with the flood.
 2. He had great patience because he continued to build an ark and be faithful to God even when the world around him was evil.
 - C. Abraham (Gen. 12:1-4)
 1. Abraham was told by God to go and he obey Him.
 2. **Heb. 6:13-15** - For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, {14} saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." {15} And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.
 3. **Heb. 11:8-10**
 - D. The Old Testament prophets
 1. Many of the prophets lost their lives because of their faith in God.
 2. **Mt. 5:12** - Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
 3. **Acts 7:52** - Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,
 4. **Js. 5:10** - My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.

- E. Each of these examples were people who “patiently endured” or “cheerfully endured” the trials that they suffered.
- F. **Rom. 15:4** - For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

II. We are commanded to be patient.

- A. We need to be patient with each other.
 - 1. **I Thes. 5:14** - Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.
 - 3. **Js. 5:7-8** - Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. {8} You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
 - 4. **I Tim. 6:11** - But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.
 - 5. **II Tim. 2:24** - And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,
 - 6. **Gal. 5:22** - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- B. We are also told that we need to wait upon the Lord.
 - 1. We “cheerfully wait” upon Him.
 - 2. **Ps. 33:20** - Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.
 - 3. **Ps. 37:7** - Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.
 - 4. **Ps. 130:6** - My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning-- yes, more than those who watch for the morning.
 - 5. It is important for us to remember that His time frame is not necessarily our time frame.
 - a. **II Pet. 3:8**
 - b. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
- C. We gain patience, or endurance, by the trials that we endure.
 - 1. **Rom. 5:3-4** - And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; {4} and perseverance, character; and character, hope.
 - 2. **Js. 1:2-4** - 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.
 - 3. **Rom. 12:12** - rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

- III. We need to be patient with others because of what God has done for us.
- A. If God was willing to sacrifice His Son for us, and then be patient with us when we sin against Him, we also should be patient with others.
1. I Pet. 2:20-25
 2. Rom. 5:6-8
- B. We need to be patient because God is patient with us.
1. Is. 30:18 - Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you; and therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him.
 2. II Pet. 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- C. We have patience with others and with God because of the reward that He has promised us.
1. Is. 25:9 - And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."
 2. Heb. 10:36-38 - For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: {37} "For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. {38} Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him."
 3. That promise is eternal life in heaven.

Conclusion:

If we are going to grow in our faith, we must grow in our patience.

We can have patience because we look to Christ.

Heb. 12:1-2 - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, {2} looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.