

Bible Studies

Patience and the Warrior

Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city. Proverbs 16v32

The question is why? As a society we celebrate the warrior mentality, the go-getter, the entrepreneur. But that is not the only way to be or the only way that brings results.

What is the patient man described as? What is the warrior described as?



Read Proverbs 15v18, Proverbs 14v29.

Obviously the patient man, in Proverbs, is a person who is in control of his behaviour, emotions and desires. This is the opposite of Proverbs' warrior.

We all have personalities, our nature. In Old English the word that was used to describe this was *spirit*. A gentle spirit. A critical spirit. (Angry, lazy, controlling, loving, greedy, manipulating etc.) It's '*just our nature*.' In modern language we would use the word temperament.

These things become strongholds in our life, places of power and control. They can be strongholds for good or evil, God or Satan.



Love can be a stronghold in your life. It can reach out to others. It can control you. It will touch everything you do.

A critical spirit can be a stronghold in your life. It can reach out to others. It can control you. It will touch everything you do.

While Love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, and evidence of His control in your life. A critical spirit, is the fruit of something else, and can represent the control of the Enemy in your life. In extreme cases this 'spirit' is in fact an evil spirit. Sometimes these various strongholds conflict and our life becomes a battlefield.



Read Job 6v11, Romans 8v25

What is the difference between patience and laziness?

What are their similarities?

When we are patient, it is because we hope to achieve something by being patient. Patience has a goal. Laziness has an end, or a result. Patience is in control of a situation, laziness isn't.

What are the dangers in mistaking inaction for patience?

In Job 6v11 patience had to do with hoping, with waiting for God with faith.

There are different kinds of patience. The Israelis, who have a pathological inability to wait quietly in a queue, make fun of the English for not having the patience to learn languages. The English were made to queue.

Patience is better than a warrior, because patience has to do with knowing the right time to act. It's not just waiting, inaction, slowness or laziness. Ecclesiastes 3, says there is a time for everything, the patient person knows that time.

Patience is wisdom put into effect, it is emotional intelligence.



A man's wisdom gives him patience, it is to his glory to overlook an offence. Proverbs 19v11

What happens if you do the right thing at the wrong time?

Men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do 1 Chronicles 12v31

What happens when you try to rush things?

What happens when you don't act when you should?



God is Patient

It is one of His most miss-interpreted attributes.

What does God's patience get misunderstood for?

That He doesn't care, doesn't know, is too weak to act, or that He doesn't exist.

God's patience has a goal, what is it? Romans 2v4, 2 Peter 3v9

Your patience also has a goal. It is to fit in with God's will and His plans. Not to be behind them and not to be ahead of them. You cannot fit God into your life, you must fit your life into God. For this you will need to have patience.

What happens if you try to run ahead of God's perfect timing?

But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. 1 Timothy 1v16

How did God show patience in Paul's life?

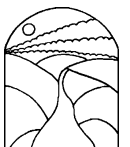
How does He show it in our lives?

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What is the difference between unlimited and everlasting?

There is a difference between quantity and duration. God's love is unlimited and everlasting.

Is God's patience everlasting? Nehemiah 9v30

Can we assume on God's patience? When does it come to an end?

If God is patient, so must we be, patience is a Fruit of the Spirit, it is also part of the description of Love, *Love is patient*. Galatians 5v22, 1 Corinthians 13v4

Why do we find it so difficult to be patient?

There are lots of answers to that question. Patience is associated with maturity. Our immaturity causes us to be impatient. Is it that we don't trust God, or that we think we know better? Is it to do with our need to achieve the goal and our inability to appreciate where we are? Are we so consumed with the shortness of our life now, that we have failed to grasp the length of eternity?

If you ask a child to make a model airplane, he will rush it. As far as he is concerned the only important thing is to get it finished. An adult will take his time, for him the pleasure is the making of the plane not finishing the plane.

Impatience is a bizarre thing, it does not achieve anything good. Whether you wait patiently or impatiently you still wait as long. The warrior spirit says you have to act now.

What differences are created by the way we wait?

We need patience in earthly things and spiritual things.

What earthly things do we need patience with?

What response will being patient, elicit from the people around you?

Sometimes respect, but like God's patience, it can also be misinterpreted and abused.



We need to be patient with God.

God is not going to hurry. He has His own timing and if we are impatient, it is us who are going to miss out. An example of this would be Abraham and Ishmael.



Read Psalm 37v7, Psalm 40v1, Psalm 27v14

What does waiting mean in these passages?

Can you rush God?

No, you cannot rush God, you must trust Him. He does not see time the way we do. When you ask why don't You...? (As many people in Scripture did.) You must acknowledge that although you don't know them, and may never know them, God has His reasons.

Never give up hoping, never give up asking, never give up praying, never give up trusting.



We need patience with ourselves

It is going to take time to get from where you are now, to where God wants you to be. Just because you have not arrived is not a reason to be disheartened.

God is patient with you, you must be patient with yourself.

Does this mean we can be apathetic, slow or lazy?

We are in this thing for the long haul. Paul calls the Christian life a race, but our faith is not a 100m sprint, it is a marathon. We have to let God finish the work He has started in us. You cannot do it by yourself. Philippians 1v6

What would happen if God worked too quickly in your life?



We need to be patient with others.

It is very easy to get impatient with those around us who have not quite reached our level of brilliance. When they show ignorance of spiritual things or a lack of maturity, we think down on them and judge them.

Why is this hypocritical?

What attitude should you take?

God is patient with you. He bears your faults and defects, and works you through them. You must do the same for others.

How is your patience going to bear fruit?



You need to be patient in your ministries and callings.

You start pastoring a new church, and revival does not break out in your first week. **What do you do?**

If we expect to see immediate results for everything we do, what effect will it have on us when they don't come?

Many of the things God calls us to do take time. They require patience and faithfulness to obtain the results that God wants. Weeds grow overnight, trees take time.

What else do you need to be patient with?