

**By your patience, possess your souls**

**Luke 21:19**

**Week 24 Homework**

I have heard it said repeatedly that we should NOT pray for patience because the trials that the Lord will allow us to go through to increase our patience are terrible.

Seriously?

God isn't going to laugh and punish us just because we pray for patience, that just isn't His character, is it? When we know Him, we trust Him and when we know and trust Him we are unafraid. Besides, He is going to teach us patience whether we ask for it or not, so be bold, dive in and trust Him to carry you through!

Patience is highly underrated ladies. It is much to be desired!

1) Get out your trusty dictionaries, take a deep breath and look up the word patience.

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That is some powerful stuff right there.

As we talked about in study, the tribes of Ruben, Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh chose to have their inheritance on the other side of the Jordan because they thought it looked phenomenal. We also talked this week about Moses, who after making the two and a half tribes promise to fight for the Promised Land with the rest of Israel agreed to let them live outside the Land of Milk and Honey.

God is a gentleman and He isn't going to force us to do anything, so I don't want to cause Him to agree to let me compromise. I want the fullness of what He has for me. Do you?

What did the tribes of Ruben, Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh miss out on because of their impatience? Let's look.

2) How is the Land of Milk and Honey described in Exodus 3:8?

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3) How is it described in Deuteronomy 8:7-9?

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4) Read Numbers 13:27, what do the spies describe?

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5) Just for fun, read Numbers 13:23, how did they have to carry a cluster of grapes?

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That is one big cluster of grapes ladies, definitely worth waiting for!

6) That sounds like good stuff, but who was it first promised to and what is promised? Read Genesis 12:1 -3

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Talk about patience, ladies do you know how long it was between the promise God made Abram until the fulfillment of that promise? Approximately 475 years. I wonder how many people thought it just wouldn't happen? What would we have thought?

How do we exercise patience? Look at Abram, the one to whom the promise was given.

7) We see Abraham (Abram) commended in Hebrews 11:8-10, what does it tell us about him? That by \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ (Hint: words 2 & 4 in verse 8)

Those two words ladies, I think they are the key to patience. If we have faith in God, we are going to wait on Him. If we are willing to wait on Him, we are being obedient. Two birds with one stone!

What would have happened if the tribes of Gad, Ruben and half of the tribe of Manasseh had been patient? We will probably never know.

8) Alrighty, you knew this was coming, let's apply this personally. Is there something in your life that you are struggling to be patient with or for? Someone you love to get saved? A child to return to the Lord? Healing from an illness? A rude co-worker or boss? A struggling or painful marriage? Or areas in your own life, a sharp tongue? Insecurity?

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9) Read James 1:2-4, what is promised?

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10) Wait, what does patience produce in us? It makes us \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_.

Not a lot of products on the market can produce like results, actually there is *nothing but God* that can produce that result in our lives. That is what we want, that is what we need! Patience produces unbelievable results!

11) We might not understand what He is making us wait for in the moment, but when we look back, we often see that the journey drew us deeper into Him, grew our faith in Him, healed things that needed healing, etc. Do you have an example in your own life?

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12) Read Psalm 27:14, what is promised if we wait for the Lord?

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Who doesn't need that?

13) Now, hands down one of the very best Scriptures in the whole Bible (am I going to get smote for that?), read Isaiah 40:31. What is promised here if we wait on the Lord?

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I *seriously* need that one ladies, how about you?

14) Zoom in on 2 Peter 3:14-15, what does the longsuffering of Christ bring?

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Oh ladies, as a woman who has many unsaved family and friends in her life, the patience/longsuffering of Christ is more valuable than anything, ever. He patiently waited for me, and I am so grateful, He is my reason for living!

15) Jesus did what He did on the cross because He is in love with us. Let's finish up with 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, what does love do in verse 4? \_\_\_\_\_. What a crazy definition for patience, but it sure hits home, doesn't it? Think about how patient the Lord has been with you and with me. Why? Because He loves us.

Patience is nothing to be afraid of, it is just a little bit of discomfort in the big scheme of things, but it produces the most glorious fruit.

"Teach us, O Lord, the disciplines of patience, for to wait is often harder than to work."  
- Peter Marshall