

Add To Your Faith - Perseverance

2 Pet. 1:5-8

Introduction:

- A. 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.
- B. 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. Jas. 5:11 – “We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is 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 obeyed Him.
- 2. Heb. 6:13-15 - For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU." ¹⁵And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.
- 3. Heb. 11:8-10 - By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; ¹⁰for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

D. The Old Testament prophets

- 1. Many of the prophets lost their lives because of their faith in God.
- 2. Matt. 5:12 - Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- 3. Acts 7:52 - Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;
- 4. Jas. 5:10 - As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

E. Each of these examples were people who “patiently endured” or “cheerfully endured” the trials that they suffered.

F. Rom. 15:4 - For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

II. *We Are Commanded To Be Patient.*

A. We need to be patient with each other.

1. 1 Thes. 5:14 - We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.
2. Jas. 5:7-8 - Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.
⁸You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
3. 1 Tim. 6:11 - But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.
4. 2 Tim. 2:24 - The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,
5. Gal. 5:22 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

B. We are also told that we need to wait upon the Lord.

1. We "cheerfully wait" upon Him.
 - a. Psa. 33:20 - Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.
 - b. Psa. 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 carries out wicked schemes.
 - c. Psa. 130:6 - My soul waits for the Lord More than the watchmen for the morning; Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning.
2. It is important for us to remember that His time frame is not necessarily our time frame.
 - a. 2 Pet. 3:8 - But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

C. We gain patience, or endurance, by the trials that we endure.

1. Rom. 5:3-4 - And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;
2. Jas. 1:2-4 - Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
3. Rom. 12:12 - rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to 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. 1 Pet. 2:20-25 - For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. ²¹For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, ²²WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; ²³and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. ²⁵For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.
2. Rom. 5:6-8 - For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone

would dare even to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- B. We need to be patient because God is patient with us.
 - 1. Isa. 30:18 - Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.
 - 2. 2 Pet. 3:9 - The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
- C. We have patience with others and with God because of the reward that He has promised us.
 - 1. Isa. 25:9 - And it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."
 - 2. Heb. 10:36-38 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. ³⁷FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. ³⁸BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.
 - 3. That promise is eternal life in heaven.

Conclusion:

- A. If we are going to grow in our faith, we must grow in our patience.
- B. We can have patience because we look to Christ.
- C. Heb. 12:1-2 - Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.