

The Patience of God

Although, as Pink has written, far less has been written about patience than the other Excellencies of the Divine character it is no less important. The patience of God is manifested in His dealings with sinners (us). His “long-suffering “ is His “power” of self-restraint. In God’s long-suffering we are provided a clear portrayal of His Divine goodness and mercy. For without the patience of God we surely would experience the wrath we are deserving. Additionally, we are provided a perfect example of patience in God. When we are challenged we are reminded of God’s “infinite” patience and long-suffering with us.

Scripture used:	Context:
Ex. 34:6 Num. 14:18 Psalm 86:15	God’s long-suffering demonstrates the power of control, which God exercises over Himself.
Psalm 145:8 Nahum 1:3	...Slow to anger and great in power.... God is slow to anger because He is great in power.
Nehemiah 9:17 Psalm 103:8 Num. 14:17	“Slow to anger” God’s does not respond with uncontrolled passion, but with restraint.
Rom. 9:22	In God’s long-suffering His power is “gloriously” made known.
Eccl. 8:11	The unbeliever does not recognize God’s patience and mercy.
Rom. 15:5	
Col. 3:12 Eph. 5:1,2	As children of God we are instructed to imitate or, if you will, emulate God. In so doing, as God’s elect we are instructed to be patience.
I Peter 3:20 Gen. 6:3 II Peter 2:5 Rom. 1:19-26 Acts 14:16,17	God has made himself known to man and despite mans wicked and sinful ways God remains faithful. Rather than “drawing His sword for the extermination of such rebels” God’s clearly demonstrates His patience.

Acts 13:18 Acts 13:46	The Israelites, God's chosen people, were recipients of God's tremendous patience. Throughout history, God grants Israel an abundant amount of time to repent of their sins.
II Peter 3:9	To this day God's remains patience with man,..."not wanting anyone to parish.
Matt 5:48	The patience that God extends to us we, in turn, are to extend to our enemies.

And what of the writer and the reader? Let us review our own lives. It is not long since we followed a multitude to do evil, had no concern for God's glory, and lived only to gratify self. How patiently He bore with our vile conduct" And now that grace has snatched us as brands from the burning, giving us a place in God's family, and has begotten us unto an eternal inheritance in glory, how miserably we require Him. How shallow our gratitude , how tardy our obedience, how frequent our backslidings! One reason why God suffers the flesh to remain in the believers is that He may exhibit His "long-suffering toward us" (II Peter 3:9). Since this Divine attribute is manifested only in this world, God takes advantage to display it toward "His own."

May our meditation upon this Divine Excellency soften our hearts, make our consciences tender, and my we learn in the school of holy experiences the "patience of saints," namely, submission to the Divine will and continuance in well doing. Let us earnestly seek grace to emulate this Divine Excellency. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (Matt. 5:48). In the immediate context of this verse Christ exhorts us to love our enemies, bless them that curse us, do good to them that hate us. God bears long with the wicked notwithstanding the multitude of their sin, and shall we desire to be revenged because of a single injury?