

FURTHER STUDY: PATIENCE

Memory verse:

Ephesians 4:2 “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love”

Scripture *commands* us to be patient. When we call on Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we’re ushered into a new life in Him that requires a new way of living. This new way of living urges us to be filled with the fruit of the Spirit. We’re called to “put on” patience (Col. 3:12) - one that involves both an endurance of suffering as well as the forgiveness of others. So what can we learn about long-suffering and forbearance? Let’s go to the Word and find out!

Long-suffering:

Read about these Old and New Testament characters who endured suffering (whether from other humans or from Satan himself). Consider how they each responded and what their motivation seemed to be. What can you learn from their situation and example?

Joseph → **Genesis 37; Genesis 45**

Jesus → **Matthew 4:1-11**

Forbearance:

In Scripture we see God continually forgiving others and bearing their burdens. Read about how God worked in these different scenarios, freely offering forgiveness to others. What can we learn about the heart of God in these passages? How can we apply what we learned to our everyday lives?

David → **2 Samuel 11; 2 Samuel 12:13**

Jesus → **Luke 23:32-49**

- *Digging Deeper* -

Read **Matthew 7:1-5** as well as **Matthew 7:12** and consider how these passages can be applied to patience and forgiveness. [Perhaps when we are quick to get angry and lose patience with others, it’s because in that moment we may be blind to our own shortcomings and forgetful of how others are having to constantly forgive and forbear with us too! It’s easier to be patient with others when we’re reminded how much others need to be patient with us.]

Challenge & Prayer:

Take an honest look at your heart and ask God to expose your own shortcomings related to patience. Pray **Psalms 51**. Look to Christ for your strength and your example.