

PATIENCE

Some days back as usual in the early morning I sat on my computer to write. This time I sat in the intention to write on a topic concerning world events with relation to the Church, which the Lord revealed to me lately and I was very excited to share. But in spirit I did not feel it right, so I prayed and asked the Lord to confirm to me the topic. And the message I received was to write on this topic - Patience.

First I asked myself, why did the Lord teach me about the events if I were to write about patience? Patience is a basic virtue of any human being, about which everybody knows. And I thought what was there to write about patience?

Submitting to the Lord I opened my word processor wrote the headline 'Patience' and then paused to start writing. Ten minutes passed, fifteen minutes passed, twenty minutes passed and I realized I did not know the basic meaning of patience. Something which I considered as elementary and had taken it for granted. The Lord was not inspiring me and wanted me to know how much I knew on it. So I shut down the computer and went back to sleep. Again after two days when I sat to write the Lord started to uncover the understanding and I got some light on what patience is and why the Lord had revealed the events before hand; it was all connected with this topic.

Patience is generally understood as to be calm (temperance - self control). A person who sleeps is also calm, but that does not mean that he is patient. Then some would define patience as being calm and awaiting for an event; yet again if we are awaiting an event, would that not mount to impatience? For example if I am expecting someone at home and I sit all along on a chair and keeping my eyes on the door, how would that be called patience? How long would one sit? If it is patience then why sit in the chair all the time? Will it not mount to being partly anxious?

Does patience mean to endure tribulation? No.

For in **2 Thessalonians 1:3-10** Paul talks about getting even; not doing it ourselves but letting God to do it for us.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-10

- ³ We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;
- ⁴ So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:
- ⁵ *Which is* a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:
- ⁶ Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;
- ⁷ And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,
- ⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:
- ⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;
- ¹⁰ When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

Yet in patience we are called to endure. Patience is one of the few basic characteristic requirements of being a Christian along with righteousness, godliness (God fearing), meekness, faith and charity.

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1 Timothy 6:11

¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love (charity), patience, meekness.

Although patience is a very important aspect of being a Christian, yet among the fruit of the Holy Spirit it does not list.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering (slow to anger), gentleness, goodness, faith,

²³ Meekness, temperance (self control): against such there is no law.

If patience is so important why it is not listed among the fruit of the Holy Spirit? If it is not from the Holy Spirit then where do we get patience from and how do we grow in it?

I asked many questions; now let me start giving you answers.

Patience is not a fruit but is connected with many of the fruit.

Luke 8:15

¹⁵ But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

I could call patience as a fruit basket or better still fruit salad having fruit(s) and gifts.

In simple understanding I would define patience with this example; if I am expecting the guest at home at 5:30pm, I go about doing my normal core of work, not sitting and watching at the door until it is sharp 5:30pm when the guest has to arrive. I go to the door at the said time to greet him and rejoice.

Here, we have basically four elements that go into patience:-

- 1) **Knowledge of the event** - for example here the time when it will happen.
- 2) **Trust / Faith** - trusting that things will not change, like in here the person will surely come.
- 3) **Calmness / self control** - keeping our state of affairs as natural as it can be while waiting, until the turn of the event. We may be preparing for the event but not in a rush.
- 4) **Joy** - eager and excitement deep within to see it being fulfilled.

What we normally call as the gift of patience is the ability to keep calmness or self-control during the process which is just a part of patience. But if any of the other three elements are missing, the whole process will not mount to patience.

If I do not know when (even approximately when) the event will happen or when we will receive, it will change my patience into either anxiety (impatience) or to a careless attitude which can amounts to not waiting at all.

Knowledge is a very important part of our having patience.

Luke 21:8-19

⁸ And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am *Christ*; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.

⁹ But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end *is* not by and by.

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¹⁰ Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:

¹¹ And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

¹² But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute *you*, delivering *you* up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

¹³ And it shall turn to you for a testimony.

¹⁴ Settle *it* therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer:

¹⁵ For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

¹⁶ And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and *some* of you shall they cause to be put to death.

¹⁷ And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake.

¹⁸ But there shall not an hair of your head perish.

¹⁹ In your patience possess ye your souls.

In this scripture you will realize that Jesus first updates us about the events that will happen while telling us to be strong having patience. He did this, so that the events become a clue to us during our period of wait giving us assurance that we are on the right track and by which we may have faith and express self-control.

Colossians 1:9-18

⁹ For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

¹⁰ That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

¹¹ Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

¹² Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

¹⁴ In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

¹⁵ Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

This is the reason, I realized why the Lord revealed to me about events that happened, were happening and things set ahead with regards to the Church. It was also because I was very anxious to do many things which I found were wrong but the Lord wanted me to have patience. I wanted to go on the roof of the house and shout to the world. But had I done that and people changed, that would be changing the future which is already rolled out in the Bible and this will / would not happen. For even when Isaiah knew the future and prophesied the people did not understand.

Isaiah 6:8-13

⁸ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am I*; send me.

⁹ And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.

¹⁰ Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

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¹¹ Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,
¹² And the LORD have removed men far away, and *there be* a great forsaking in the midst of the land.
¹³ But yet in it *shall be* a tenth, and *it* shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance *is* in them, when they cast *their leaves*: so the holy seed *shall be* the substance thereof.

Isaiah 30:8,9

⁸ Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:
⁹ That this *is* a rebellious people, lying children, children *that* will not hear the law of the LORD:

God allows things to happen because man's heart is so hard that without a great testimony it does not change. So each one lives a testimony and on the whole, whole mankind is a testimony by itself. I going and shouting out to the world would be like, during the exodus one of the Israelites telling all the others about the actual short route through the promise land. Although the route was just about 15days, the Israelites were lead for 40years through the wilderness. Similarly the truth is too hard for us to digest which the Lord knows. So the Lord lets time marinate the truth in us through cuts.

Exodus 13:17-18

¹⁷ And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not *through* the way of the land of the Philistines, although that *was* near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:
¹⁸ But God led the people about, *through* the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.

This knowledge of the events was given to me so that by having knowledge I may increase my faith and exercise self control, while gaining strength by rejoicing the future; which in short means have patience.

It is not necessary that there needs to be always a manifestation of events, the knowledge that it will happen at an XYZ time is sufficient. It is this knowledge that gives us the assurance it will happen and keeps alive our hope during the waiting period.

Romans 15:3-6

³ For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.
⁴ For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.
⁵ Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:
⁶ That ye may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hope is like the legs of a man; if we do not have hope then we can not move.

Romans 8:24-25

²⁴ For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?
²⁵ But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

Without hope a person is considered lame and without knowledge considered blind. These two aspects do not let a person enter in a higher spiritual growth in God's Kingdom. Symbolically David had to fight these two aspects before bringing Israel into Zion.

2 Samuel 5:4-8

⁴ David was thirty years old when he began to reign, *and he reigned forty years.*
⁵ In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.
⁶ And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither.
⁷ Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same *is* the city of David.
⁸ And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, *that are* hated of David's soul, *he shall be chief and captain.* Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.

Hope grows from trust to faith. Replacing hope with faith is like replacing human legs with automobile wheels and engine.

Like in the first example, if I do not really expect the person to keep his promise to come, then patience does not exist into the picture. To have patience I need to first have hope, trust or faith towards the result.

When we know that the person or the factors connected to the event will not or may not change during the waiting period, it brings in this second factor hope, trust or faith towards patience.

Our God is the same God, before creation, now and for ever. He has not changed and will not change for eternity. For what is perfect can not be made better.

Hebrew 1:10-12

¹⁰ And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:
¹¹ They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;
¹² And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

Like God does not change so also his Word does not change. So God and his Word are the only permanent constants in creations. When we bring this understanding into realization to our minds, it builds permanently the second factor - faith, which then lets us have patience.

Once we read in the Bible a promise, we are assured it will happen. Heavens and earth will change but what is promised will surely come to fulfillment. This is the assurance we have since it is the Word of God. Neither God changes, nor does his Word.

Isaiah 40:8

⁸ The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

John 1:1-4,9-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² The same was in the beginning with God.
³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
⁹ That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

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¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:
¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 13:8

⁸ Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

2 Peter 3:5-7

⁵ For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:
⁶ Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:
⁷ But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

When we know the value of the Word and we receive it / live it, we will increase our faith which in-turn will help increase our fruit(s) and thus increase our patience.

Luke 8:11-15

¹¹ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.
¹² Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.
¹³ They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.
¹⁴ And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection.
¹⁵ But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Knowledge helps brings about faith, together they ignite in us the strength to keep calm during the period of waiting. This strength helps us endure afflictions and tribulations which come against us. But what keeps the strength going is joy.

Let us take the case of Abraham. He was promised an uncountable generation and a Promise land, but what did he receive? He had only one (promised) son from his wife Sarah and he also died outside in the wilderness, even after his death his (blood) generations did not get to dwell properly in the land across the river Jordan. Yet he showed patience all though his life.

Did his patience fail him? Or did God fail him? No.

You will say but brother he did not receive any these promises.

I would say he did receive. The problem is if we do not understand the Word we will be looking for the wrong thing or in the wrong direction. Knowledge should not be just information but should be with proper understanding. That makes wisdom also an important part of patience.

Now take the case of Moses, he cried with the Lord to enter the Promised Land. He wanted to go along with the others to the other side of the river Jordan, but the Lord refused him.

Deuteronomy 32:48-52

⁴⁸ And the LORD spake unto Moses that selfsame day, saying,
⁴⁹ Get thee up into this mountain Abarim, *unto* mount Nebo, which *is* in the land of Moab, that *is* over against Jericho; and behold the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel for a possession:
⁵⁰ And die in the mount whither thou goest up, and be gathered unto thy people; as Aaron thy brother died in mount Hor, and was gathered unto his people:
⁵¹ Because ye trespassed against me among the children of Israel at the waters of Meribah-Kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin; because ye sanctified me not in the midst of the children of Israel.
⁵² Yet thou shalt see the land before *thee*; but thou shalt not go thither unto the land which I give the children of Israel.

Deuteronomy 34:4-5

⁴ And the LORD said unto him, This *is* the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see *it* with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.
⁵ So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

God did not hate Moses to not let him enter his promise. The promise which the Lord had given was the real Promise Land which is the Heavens but Moses' foolish eyes were on the earthly land.

Genesis 28:10-15

¹⁰ And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.
¹¹ And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put *them for* his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.
¹² And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.
¹³ And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I *am* the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;
¹⁴ And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.
¹⁵ And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of.

The Angels were none other the sons of God, the spiritual descendants of Abraham and Jacob who had received their inheritance (the Hebrew word Jordan means 'descender' – inherited).

Galatians 3:7-9,16,22,26-29

⁷ Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.
⁸ And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed.
⁹ So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.
¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.
²² But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.
²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.
²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

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²⁹ And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Therefore we have Abraham who in the Bible showed the maximum patience did so, because he was focused on the truth - the right Promise Land.

John 8:56

⁵⁶ "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad."

It was this joy which came through the understanding (knowledge with wisdom) and faith, that gave Abraham the strength to endure in patience.

Hebrews 6:11-15

¹¹ And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

¹² That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

¹³ For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself,

¹⁴ Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

¹⁵ And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

There are many kinds of patience(s) - patience which comes with hope, patience which comes in trust and patience which come in faith.

The first stage of patience is of hope.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-8

² We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

³ Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

⁴ Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

We all come to the Lord with hope of life and better things. The hope becomes the root that creates a desire to know the Lord and his Word.

Like I pointed out before when experience come in the picture then hope becomes trust. Then our patience grows stronger.

Romans 5:1-5

¹ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

³ And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

⁴ And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

⁵ And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

⁶ For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

The Greek word used for hope in verse 4 and 5 is 'elpis' which has also been translated as faith. And if you read the 6th verse, it links to faith.

In Greek there are many words for hope and faith and they are according to the level of faith.

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Elpo – to anticipate, with pleasure

Elpis – to hope in, trust

Elpizo – trust

Oligopistos – little faith

Pistis - faith

In the Bible there is no scripture with ‘**elpo**’, it is the root for ‘**elpizo**’. This hope is more connected to one’s sense of excitement and is the shortest sustained feeling in this category. It is when one’s own experience or the experience of others (testimonies) comes across this spark, it leads to a small ray of hope and then to the real hope.

Example of ‘**elpis**’ is

Romans 8:24,25

²⁴ For we are saved by hope (elpis): but hope (elpis) that is seen is not hope (elpis): for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope (elpizo) for?

²⁵ But if we hope (elpizo) for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-8

² We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

³ Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope (elpis) in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

⁴ Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

⁵ For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

⁶ And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

⁷ So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

⁸ For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

Example of ‘**elpizo**’ is

1 Timothy 4:8-10

⁸ For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

⁹ This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

¹⁰ For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust (elpizo) in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

Example of ‘**Oligopistos**’ is

Luke 12:28

²⁸ If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more *will he clothe* you, O ye of little faith (oligopistos)?

Example of ‘**Pistis**’ is

James 5:15

¹⁵ And the prayer of **faith** (pistis) shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

One of the differences between **elpis** and **elpizo** is that **elpis** in the New Testament is used as a verb and **elpizo** as a noun.

Let me take an example to explain **elpis** and **elpizo** better: - to love someone and have a love relationship with someone.

There is a big difference between the two. The first is a process and the second becomes a bond.

So what we see here is a spark of excitement or desire and it comes across a testimony, it brings in the verb hope. When this verb hope encounters the individual (here God), who could be relied on, it becomes a trust relationship. When this trust relationship encounters the Word it grows into little faith. And when the truth or the revelation of the Word gets into the person it blooms into the real faith.

Along this journey from the spark of hope to real faith, grows patience. For like with faith; experience and revelation also work with patience to build it to its perfectness (truth comes either when we live the Word or when the Spirit of God reveals it to us).

Therefore the three prominent stages of growth of patience are:

- 1) patience in hope
- 2) patience in trust
- 3) patience in understanding.

Now we will understand the patience of Abraham (which had matured to the third stage) as testified in the Bible.

The three stages of patience can be sensed in the scriptures as we read them: -

Hebrew 10:35-37

³⁵ Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

³⁶ For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

³⁷ For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Hebrew 12:1-2

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2 Corinthians 6:3-10

³ Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:

⁴ But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

⁵ In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

⁶ By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

⁷ By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

⁸ By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and *yet* true;

⁹ As unknown, and *yet* well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;
¹⁰ As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.

2 Timothy 3:15

¹⁰ But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,
¹¹ Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.
¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
¹³ But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.
¹⁴ But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;
¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

James 1:2-7

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
⁴ But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.
⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

James 5:7-11

⁷ Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.
⁸ Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.
⁹ Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.
¹⁰ Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.
¹¹ Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

2 Peter 1:2-11

² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,
³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.
⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you* that *ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.
¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

PATIENCE

¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Patience is going to play a very important part in our lives in the last days, only those with patience (that has matured) will survive and see light.

Revelation 13:1-10

- ¹ And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.
- ² And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.
- ³ And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.
- ⁴ And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?
- ⁵ And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months.
- ⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.
- ⁷ And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.
- ⁸ And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.
- ⁹ If any man have an ear, let him hear.
- ¹⁰ He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Revelation 14:9-12

- ⁹ And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand,
- ¹⁰ The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:
- ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.
- ¹² Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

As the Lord has revealed to us this understanding, let each one of us assess ourselves and our patience. As we grow from the spark to a testimony, to an encounter with God, to studying His Word and to getting the truth in us; let us all grow in patience and in all the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

God Bless