

# Patience According to Scripture

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I use to tell my children when they were very young... "Use your patience!" I would explain, "Patience means waiting without getting upset." Putting the meaning of this expectation into simple terms that a small child could understand was my duty as their mother...their first teacher. Learning the patience lesson was certainly a difficult task for two extremely active little boys always anxious to run, jump, or dive into life's next exciting adventure. My patience was to be manifested in the teaching and re-teaching of the lesson. My patience to teach was paramount to their ability to learn. After all, children will only learn well what we choose to carefully teach them.

Patience is a virtue...so it has been said. It, like all virtues, although worthy of our desire to obtain is not always easily possessed. Just ask any young child for verification! But often things that come too easily are not fully valued. Therefore, the fact that patience isn't easy is surely a blessing. Just maybe it holds an opportunity for a valuable lesson worth learning and presents a possibility for the discovery of something worth waiting for.

Imagine the patience required of Mary and Joseph while waiting through the gestation period of our Lord. Imagine the patience needed by the wise men as they journeyed far, following a star in the East, guiding them to meet their new King! Imagine the patience necessary while witness to the scourging, the horror of the crucifixion, and the anticipation of His last breath. Imagine the patience demanded at the tomb when the certainty of resurrection and the hope for everlasting life was yet unknown.

Sometimes learning the lesson of patience can be excruciating. But, Jesus, who is the perfect embodiment of grace and love, has great patience for *our* learning! He is *our* thoughtful teacher.

Through the anticipation of His birth, He taught us that patience revealed the opportunity to know the Word made flesh.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

John 1:14, 18

Through the anticipation of finding Him, He taught us that patience revealed the opportunity to learn that the Way is certain.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6

Through the anticipation of His death, He taught us that patience revealed the opportunity to be given salvation from sin.

...but if we walk in the light, as he did in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:7

Through the anticipation of His resurrection, He taught us that patience revealed the opportunity to receive the assurance of life everlasting.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26

God continues to teach us about patience and the promise of a reward worthy of the wait. He prepares us for the patience we will need most in the waiting for Him.

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:12-13, 20

Patience is a virtue to be nurtured and appreciated because the opportunity for the reward it holds is certain. Yes! Indeed, His coming will be worthy of our patience!