

Text: How much *patience* do you have?



Patience

One of the biggest life lessons that we must learn in order to have a peaceful existence here on Earth is that we must be patient. A lack of patience can cause you to be anxious, uneasy, worried and stressed out. If you want peace and rest as you wait for your life situations to be resolved, you must master how to wait with patience...

Our society isn't **patient**... We are taught to want things fast...

- We want *fast food*
- We want to *talk now*
- We just *can't wait*



The Bible speaks about **Patience**...

- Patience is identified as an important characteristic to have
 - Galatians 5: 22-23
- Proverbs 15: 18
 - Being patient with others can help us to avoid major conflict
- Romans 12: 12
 - Being patient in affliction means that in our difficult times, we must have endurance and wait patiently until things get better

The Bible speaks about **Patience...**

- I Corinthians 13: 4
 - When you love someone, there will be times that you have to be patient with them
- Psalms 40: 1
 - Wait patiently for God to show up and intervene in your situation
- Romans 8: 25
 - Wait patiently for the things you hope for

Let's take a look at 3 bible characters and the level of patience they had during their tough times...

The Widow of Zarephath

- I Kings 17: 7-16
 - She had already been through difficult times. She lost her husband. She was a single parent. She was impoverished.
 - The widow's patience had run out. She was no longer waiting on God for help. She had lost hope and was preparing to die
 - Knowing of the widow's troubles, the Lord sent the prophet Elijah to minister to her need for food
 - The widow and her son were blessed because she was obedient. She did just as Elijah, the messenger for the Lord, requested and she was blessed with more than enough food

Life Lesson:

Just as you are about to give up or give in, the Lord could already be on His way to helping you with your issue. Be patient and wait on God.

Abraham

- Genesis 22: 1-14
 - Abraham's faith, loyalty and patience is being tested by God
 - Abraham is obedient
 - The Lord waits until the very last moment before He relieves Abraham of his burden
 - Abraham patiently waits on the Lord in faith that He will come through for him.
 - After God tests Abraham, He intervenes in his situation and rescues him from it

Life Lesson:

Sometimes God makes us wait because he is testing us in some way. When we have passed His test, it is then that He comes to our rescue.

Jesus

- Mark 15: 25-35
 - Jesus has been through a terrible trial
 - He is in pain and agony on the cross while waiting on His Father
 - As the hours pass, Christ becomes more and more weary
 - In Verse 34, Jesus asks, “Why have you forsaken me?”

Even Jesus had to wait on His Father as He was suffering on the cross. At one point, because it was taking so long, Jesus thought His Father had forsaken Him. Jesus didn't realize it, but God was on His way. Jesus died, but He rose again.

Life Lesson:

If Jesus had to wait during His suffering, we, too, will have to wait sometimes when we are hurting. Let us try our best to wait with the right attitude and have confidence that God is on his way to help us...