

THE UNSHAKEABLE WORD

# 70 Bible Verses

## *About Patience*

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*From Abraham's long wait to the promise of a new creation*

• *Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us* •

Patience is among the most misunderstood words in the Christian vocabulary. It is not the polite suppression of frustration. It is not the resigned acceptance of things you cannot change. It is not passivity dressed in spiritual language. Biblical patience — the Greek *hupomone*, the endurance that remains under the weight — is one of the most active and demanding qualities the Spirit produces in a human life. It is the decision, made again and again, to hold on to what God has said long after the circumstances have made holding on unreasonable.

Abraham waited twenty-five years. Joseph waited in a pit and then a prison. David waited in caves and on the run. The prophets spoke words they would never see fulfilled. The early church waited for a return that had not come, while suffering for a Lord who was already present. And at the centre of it all is Jesus — who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, who by his patience under suffering purchased the patience He now pours into everyone who belongs to Him.

These seventy verses do not minimise the difficulty of waiting. They speak to it honestly, from the inside, by people who knew what it was to hold on when holding on made no obvious sense. They also point, consistently and clearly, to where patience comes from and where it is going. The God who asks you to wait is himself the most patient being in existence — and what He is patiently building in you is worth every moment of the wait.

**Read them slowly. Let the God of patience direct your heart.**

## WHAT PATIENCE ACTUALLY IS

*Scripture's patience is not passive resignation. It is active, purposeful endurance anchored in the character of God.*

1

ROMANS 5:3–4

*“...we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

The chain is exact: tribulation produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, character produces hope. Patience is not the starting point but the product of something harder — tribulation chosen rather than fled. The person who has learned patience through suffering is a different person entirely from the one who merely practises it in theory. Glory in tribulations not because the pain is good, but because of what the pain is building.

2

JAMES 1:3–4

*“Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”*

Let patience have its perfect work — do not interrupt it before it is finished. The testing is producing something specific in you, and pulling out early means receiving only a fraction of what God intends to give. Perfect and complete, lacking nothing: this is what patience, fully formed, produces in a person. It is one of the most thorough transformations the Spirit performs.

3

**HEBREWS 12:1***“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”*

The race that is set before us — not the race you would have designed, not the distance you would have chosen, but the one set before you. The call is not to run a different race but to run this one with endurance. The course has already been laid out. The question is only whether you will stay in it.

4

**ROMANS 15:4***“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”*

Patience and comfort of the Scriptures — the word of God produces both. When you read how Abraham waited, how Joseph endured, how the psalmists held on in the dark, you are not reading history. You are receiving instruction in patience and fuel for hope. The Scripture was written to produce exactly this.

5

**2 THESSALONIANS 3:5***“Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.”*

The patience of Christ — not merely patience as a virtue, but participation in the specific kind of patience that Christ himself embodied. The patience that endured the cross, that waited through the silence of God on Good Friday, that held on through what could not be understood. This is the patience we are directed toward.

**WAITING ON GOD**

*Waiting is not wasted time. In Scripture, it is one of the primary postures of faith.*

6

**ISAIAH 40:31***“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”*

The sequence descends and is therefore more honest: mount up, run, walk. The miraculous moments of soaring come first. Then the sustained running. Then the hardest thing — the ordinary walking, day after day, without fainting. The promise covers all three. Waiting on the Lord renews strength not only for the heights but for the long, unremarkable stretches in between.

7

**PSALM 27:14***“Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!”*

The repetition is not accident — it is instruction for the moment when waiting has become very difficult. Wait, I say, on the Lord. The second wait comes after the reminder of courage and strength, as if the psalmist knows you will need to be told again. Most of us do. The command to wait is one of the ones we most need repeated.

8

PSALM 37:7

*“Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.”*

Do not fret — the comparison with those who seem to be succeeding through wrong means is one of the great tests of patience. It appears they are getting away with it. The patient soul holds on to the longer view: God has not finished, and what appears successful now will be judged in the fullness of time.

9

PSALM 130:5–6

*“I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.”*

More than those who watch for the morning — the watchman on the night shift knows the dawn is coming, and that certainty sustains him through the dark hours. The patient soul waits with the same certainty: the Lord will come. The waiting is not passive but expectant, held up by what is known even when nothing can be seen.

10

LAMENTATIONS 3:25–26

*“The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”*

Wait quietly — not the silence of despair but the stillness of someone who has made peace with the timing of God. Quietly suggests an inward composure that is not natural to human beings in difficulty. It is the fruit of having decided, again and again, that God can be trusted with the when.

## PATIENCE IN SUFFERING

*The people who wrote most convincingly about patience were the ones who had suffered most genuinely.*

11

JAMES 5:10–11

*“My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord — that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”*

The end intended by the Lord — this is what patience holds on to. Not the present experience, which is often opaque and painful, but the end that God has in view, which is compassionate and merciful. Job did not know what God was doing. He held on anyway. He is counted blessed — not because the suffering was not real, but because the end was.

12

1 PETER 2:20

*“For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.”*

Commendable before God — the patience that endures unjust suffering is noticed in heaven. It is not merely a character strength; it is a spiritual commendation. The person who suffers wrongly and responds without bitterness or retaliation is doing something that God explicitly recognises as praiseworthy.

13

2 CORINTHIANS 1:6

*“Now if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer.”*

Effective for enduring — Paul’s suffering produced in others the capacity to endure. Patient suffering is never only personal. It is always observed by someone who needs to see that it is possible, that faith holds, that God does not abandon. Your patience in difficulty is training someone else.

14

2 TIMOTHY 2:12

*“If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.”*

We shall also reign with Him. The endurance is not the end of the story. What comes after endurance is worth far more than the endurance cost. The person who holds on to the end does not merely survive. They inherit.

15

REVELATION 14:12

*“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”*

The patience of the saints — the final book of the Bible reserves a special phrase for those who endure to the end in the most trying of circumstances. Patience is identified here as a distinguishing mark of those who belong to God. It is not a minor attribute. It is one of the defining characteristics of the people of God.

## THE FRUIT OF PATIENCE

*Patience is never wasted. What it produces is always worth what it cost.*

16

JAMES 1:12

*“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”*

When he has been approved — the testing period has a purpose: it produces approval. The crown of life is not given to those who never struggled but to those who struggled and held on. Patience under temptation is a form of love toward God, and God rewards it with the life He promised.

17

ROMANS 5:4

*“...and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

Character — the thing patience is building in you while you wait. Not reputation, not record, not achievement, but the interior formation of a person who has been shaped by endurance into someone genuinely different. And from that character: hope. The patient person is always, eventually, the hopeful person.

18

HEBREWS 6:12

*“That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”*

Through faith and patience — always together. Faith without patience gives up before the promise arrives. Patience without faith has nothing to endure toward. The inheritance requires both: the certainty that the promise is real and the willingness to wait as long as it takes.

19

HEBREWS 10:36

*“For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”*

After you have done the will of God — the doing and the receiving are separated by a word: after. Endurance is what fills the space between obedience and promise. It is not a failure of the system. It is the system. Endurance is where character is formed.

20

GALATIANS 6:9

*“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not give up.”*

If we do not give up — the only condition attached to the harvest is continued planting. The reaping is certain; the timing is God's. The temptation is to stop planting before the season of harvest arrives. Due season does not mean your season. It means God's appointed time, which is always exactly right.

## GOD'S OWN PATIENCE

*The God who asks patience of us is himself the most patient being in the universe.*

21

2 PETER 3:9

*“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

Longsuffering toward us — what looks like delay is actually patience. God is not behind schedule. He is waiting, with deliberate purpose, for the maximum number of people to come to repentance. His patience is an expression of His love. Every day that He waits is a day someone else finds their way home.

22

ROMANS 2:4

*“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”*

The goodness of God leads you to repentance — not His severity, not His anger, but His goodness, His forbearance, His longsuffering. God’s patience toward you is one of His primary tools of redemption. To receive it without being moved by it is to despise a gift of incalculable value.

23

1 TIMOTHY 1:16

*“However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.”*

A pattern — Paul’s story is not only his own. It is God’s demonstration of what longsuffering looks like when it reaches its target. The person who thinks they are too far gone is invited to look at Paul, and to see there the length of the patience that is still reaching toward them.

24

PSALM 86:15

*“But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.”*

Full of compassion, gracious, longsuffering, abundant in mercy and truth — these are not separate attributes assembled in God. They are the single character of the God who is patient with you not because He has not noticed your failure but because He has decided, in full knowledge of it, to be exactly these things toward you.

25

EXODUS 34:6

*“And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.’”*

The Lord’s own self-declaration. When God chose to describe Himself, longsuffering was on the list. It is not a reluctant attribute, not a patience merely endured. It is part of the identity He proclaimed over Himself. The patience of God is not a temporary accommodation. It is who He is.

## PATIENCE TOWARD OTHER PEOPLE

*The hardest kind of patience is often not waiting for God. It is bearing with one another.*

26

EPHESIANS 4:2

*“With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.”*

Bearing with one another in love — the Greek word for bearing suggests carrying a weight. Other people, over time, become something we carry: their weaknesses, their slowness to change, their failures, their differences from us. Longsuffering is the willingness to keep carrying, with love rather than resentment, what another person requires of you.

27

COLOSSIANS 3:12–13

*“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another.”*

Put on longsuffering — it is described as a garment, something you choose to wear each morning. You do not stumble into patience with difficult people. You put it on deliberately, as a decision, before the day begins and the difficulty arrives.

28

GALATIANS 5:22

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.”*

Longsuffering as fruit of the Spirit — it is not primarily a character strength you develop but a quality the Spirit grows in you. You cannot manufacture patience with difficult people through willpower alone. You need the Spirit to be producing it from the inside. Ask for it. It is a fruit He is eager to grow.

29

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

*“Love suffers long and is kind.”*

Suffers long — patience is the first thing Paul says about love. Before any of the other qualities, before kindness, before generosity, before the great declarations of what love does: it suffers long. Patience is love’s first expression, and the one that costs the most in ordinary daily life.

30

2 TIMOTHY 4:2

*“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”*

With all longsuffering — Paul attaches patience to the work of ministry and teaching. The person who speaks truth into another life must do it with longsuffering, because people are slow to change, slow to hear, slow to be convinced. The faithful teacher keeps teaching, with patience, long before the fruit appears.

## ABRAHAM: THE FATHER OF PATIENT FAITH

*Abraham waited twenty-five years for the promise God gave him when he was seventy-five. And he believed.*

31

ROMANS 4:20–21

*“He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”*

Fully convinced — not partially convinced, not convinced on good days and doubtful on bad ones. Fully convinced. This is the destination of patient faith: not the absence of difficulty but the settled certainty that the God who promised is able to do what He said. Abraham arrived at full conviction through twenty-five years of waiting, not by skipping it.

32

HEBREWS 6:15

*“And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.”*

After he had patiently endured — the promise came after, not before. The endurance was not a detour around the promise. It was the road to it. Every year of Abraham’s waiting was part of the journey to what God had said. Patience does not delay the promise. It is how you travel toward it.

33

GENESIS 15:6

*“And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”*

He believed — the foundation of Abraham’s patient endurance was simply this: he believed God. In the middle of the waiting, when nothing had yet changed, he believed the word he had been given. Patient faith is not the absence of feeling the delay. It is the decision to believe the promise despite it.

34

ROMANS 4:18

*“Who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, ‘So shall your descendants be.’”*

Contrary to hope, in hope believed — every natural indicator said impossible. He was too old. The promise was too large. The circumstances were too fixed. And Abraham believed the spoken word anyway. This is the model of patience that Scripture holds up above all others: faith that endures beyond what any reasonable person would expect.

35

GENESIS 21:1–2

*“And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken. For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken.”*

At the set time — God had a time in mind all along. It was not the time Abraham would have chosen or the time any observer would have predicted. It was God’s set time. And it came. It always comes. The patience of faith holds on to this: God has a set time, and He will not miss it.

## PATIENCE IN PRAYER

*To pray and keep praying when heaven seems silent is one of the most demanding forms of patience.*

36

LUKE 18:1

*“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.”*

Not lose heart — the opposite of patient prayer is losing heart: giving up on God, concluding that He does not hear or does not care or has decided against you. Jesus tells this parable specifically to address the temptation to stop. Men always ought to pray. The always is not a description of what people do but a command for what they should do, in every season, regardless of how silent it seems.

37

**PHILIPPIANS 4:6**

*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”*

In everything — not only in the things that seem important enough to bring, not only in the crises. Everything. The patient pray-er brings everything to God, with thanksgiving, and then trusts that God has heard and that His response, in His time, will be exactly right.

38

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:17**

*“Pray without ceasing.”*

Without ceasing — not a demand for unbroken vocal prayer but a description of the posture of a life oriented toward God. The person who prays without ceasing is the person for whom prayer has become the atmosphere of daily life rather than a scheduled activity. This posture requires patience: the willingness to keep the conversation open even when the response has not yet come.

39

**MATTHEW 7:7–8**

*“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”*

Keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking — the Greek verbs are present continuous. The promise is not attached to a single act of asking but to the ongoing posture of one who asks. Patient prayer is the sustained, expectant, repeated bringing of the same request to the same God, trusting that the door will open.

40

**PSALM 40:1**

*“I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry.”*

He inclined to me — God leaned toward the one who waited. He heard. The waiting was not ignored. The patience was not wasted. The cry reached Him. The psalmist’s testimony is that patient waiting ends with God bending toward you and listening. This is what patience in prayer is waiting for.

## THE EXAMPLE OF THE PROPHETS

*The prophets were called to speak words that would not be fulfilled in their lifetime. This is patience in its most tested form.*

41

**JAMES 5:10**

*“My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.”*

As an example — the prophets are given to us not as distant historical figures but as practical models. They spoke what God said and then often lived to see nothing come of it, at least not in their own time. They suffered and waited. Their faithfulness was the patience of a person willing to plant what they would never harvest.

42

**JEREMIAH 20:9**

*“But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and could not.”*

Could not — Jeremiah’s patience was not the absence of struggle. He was weary. He had resolved to stop speaking. But the word of God would not be contained. This is the patience that endures not through ease but through the compulsion of something larger than exhaustion: the word that burns inside you and will not let you stop.

43

**ISAIAH 53:7**

*“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.”*

He opened not His mouth — the patience of the Suffering Servant, the ultimate prophetic figure, was expressed in silence. Not the silence of resignation but the silence of one who knew exactly what was happening and chose not to resist it. This is the patience of Christ, and it is the pattern held before every suffering believer.

44

**HABAKKUK 2:3**

*“For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”*

Though it tarries, wait for it — the divine instruction for the prophet who has been given a vision he cannot yet see fulfilled. It will not lie. It will come. It will not ultimately tarry beyond the appointed time. This is the patience of one who has received a word from God and holds it, through all the silence, until the word proves itself.

45

**DANIEL 12:12**

*“Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.”*

Blessed is he who waits — Daniel is given a number he could not fully understand, a timeframe reaching beyond his own life. And God calls blessed the one who simply waits for it. The blessing of patience is not withheld until you understand what you are waiting through. It is given to the one who waits, even in the dark.

## PATIENT ENDURANCE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

*The early church had to learn patience quickly. They were waiting for a return that had not yet come, while suffering for a Lord who was already present.*

46

**REVELATION 3:10**

*“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world.”*

You have kept My command to persevere — perseverance is here described as a command, kept or broken as an act of obedience. The church at Philadelphia had endured. They had not quit. And God’s response to that patient endurance is protection and promise. Perseverance is rewarded because God sees it, even when no one else does.

47

**HEBREWS 12:2-3**

*“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... For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.”*

Consider Him — the cure for weariness in patience is to fix your attention on Jesus. He endured the cross by looking past it to the joy set before Him. This is the model: not enduring without an eye on what comes after, but enduring precisely because of what lies ahead.

48

**ROMANS 8:25**

*“But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”*

Eagerly — patience is not passive. The eager waiting of Romans 8 is not the resigned settling of someone with no other option. It is the active expectation of someone who knows what is coming and cannot wait for it to arrive. Hope transforms patience from endurance into anticipation.

49

**2 THESSALONIANS 1:4**

*“So that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure.”*

Your patience and faith — always the pair. The Thessalonians were enduring genuine persecution, and Paul boasts of their patience. Not of their comfort, not of their favourable circumstances, but of their patient faith in the middle of tribulation. This is what the church is called to and what it is known for, at its best.

50

**COLOSSIANS 1:11**

*“Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy.”*

With joy — the patience Paul prays for is not grim endurance. It is patience paired with joy. Longsuffering with joy is one of the most distinctive marks of a life genuinely sustained by God’s power, because no human nature produces it naturally. It is the signature of something supernatural at work inside a person.

## PATIENCE AND HOPE

*Patience and hope are always found together in Scripture. One feeds the other.*

51

ROMANS 8:24–25

*“For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”*

Eagerly wait for it with perseverance — hope is the fuel of patience. When you know what you are waiting for and believe it is coming, the waiting becomes oriented rather than aimless. Patience without hope is merely endurance. Patience with hope is the forward-looking, eager expectation of someone whose future is secure even though it is not yet visible.

52

PSALM 33:20–22

*“Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name. Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, just as we hope in You.”*

Our heart shall rejoice in Him — not when the answer comes, but now, in the waiting. The soul that waits for the Lord is not a soul in agony. It is a soul in trust, and trust, in the middle of waiting, produces joy. This is the mystery of patient hope: it can rejoice before the promise arrives.

53

MICAH 7:7

*“Therefore I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.”*

My God will hear me — the foundation of patient waiting is the certainty of being heard. Not the certainty of receiving exactly what you asked for on your timetable, but the certainty that the God you are waiting on is not deaf, is not indifferent, is not slow. He hears. That is enough to wait on.

54

LAMENTATIONS 3:24

*“‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I hope in Him!’”*

Therefore I hope — the conclusion follows from the premise. If the Lord is your portion — your fundamental inheritance, the deepest thing you have — then hope is not a strategy. It is a logical conclusion. You hope in Him because He is what you have, and He is enough.

55

PSALM 62:5

*“My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him.”*

From Him alone — the patience that is anchored in God alone is the most stable of all. When your expectation is placed entirely in God rather than distributed among circumstances, people, and outcomes, it cannot be disappointed by any of those things. God alone is a foundation that does not shift.

## WHAT PATIENCE IS NOT

*Scripture is realistic about the difference between patient endurance and passive resignation or willful blindness.*

56

REVELATION 2:2-3

*“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil... and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.”*

I know your patience — Christ sees patient endurance. He records it. The church at Ephesus had patience but also discernment — they did not bear evil. Patience is not tolerance of everything, not indifference to wrong. It is the long-suffering willingness to keep going in faithfulness while not pretending that what is wrong is right.

57

HEBREWS 12:12-13

*“Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.”*

Strengthen the hands which hang down — patience is not the permission to collapse. It actively strengthens itself. The weary person is commanded to straighten up, make the paths straight, keep moving. Patience is not lying down. It is refusing to lie down while being genuinely exhausted.

58

PHILIPPIANS 4:11

*“I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content.”*

I have learned — contentment, which is patience applied to circumstances, is a learned quality. Paul does not say he was born with it or that it arrived automatically. He learned it, which means it was taught by something — by the seasons of abundance and need, the high places and the low ones. Patience grows through practice.

59

NUMBERS 14:18

*“The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty.”*

By no means clears the guilty — God’s longsuffering is not moral indifference. He is patient toward sin without pretending sin is not sin. The patience of God creates space for repentance, not for accumulation of guilt. Divine patience is the space between sin and judgement, filled with the mercy that invites return.

60

ISAIAH 30:18

*“Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you... Blessed are all those who wait for Him.”*

The Lord will wait, that He may be gracious — God’s patience is purposeful. He waits for the moment when His grace will be most fully received. He is not delaying arbitrarily. He is timing His gracious intervention with infinite wisdom. Blessed are all those who wait for Him — they are waiting for exactly this.

## PATIENCE IN DOING GOOD

*The most testing kind of patience is the kind that keeps doing right when it appears to make no difference.*

61

GALATIANS 6:9

*“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not give up.”*

If we do not give up — the entire promise rests on this single condition. The harvest is certain, the timing is God’s, and the only thing that can prevent you from receiving it is quitting before it arrives. Let us not grow weary. The weariness is acknowledged; the instruction is clear. Keep going.

62

2 THESSALONIANS 3:13

*“But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.”*

Paul says it again. Do not grow weary in doing good. The repetition throughout his letters suggests that this is exactly where the community keeps failing — not in dramatic moral collapse but in the slow exhaustion of faithful, unrewarded goodness. The instruction to not grow weary implies that you will be tempted to. Keep going anyway.

63

1 TIMOTHY 6:11

*“But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.”*

Pursue patience — it is a thing to be actively chased, not merely awaited. The patient person is not someone who has stopped striving. They are striving toward patience as one of the primary qualities of a godly life. It is in this list alongside righteousness and faith and love. Patience is not a secondary virtue.

64

ROMANS 12:12

*“Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.”*

Patient in tribulation — the three phrases form a single posture: hope that produces joy, patience in difficulty, prayer that sustains both. This is the rhythm of a life that has learned how to endure. It does not endure by absence of trouble but by the presence of God in the middle of it.

65

LUKE 21:19

*“By your patience possess your souls.”*

Possess your souls — patience, in the end, is how you keep yourself. The person who loses patience loses a piece of who they are — the part that knows who they belong to and what they are waiting for. By your patience, hold on to the self that God made and is making. This is what endurance protects.

## THE PATIENT CHURCH

*The community of God’s people has always been a people of patient hope. Together, they endure what none could endure alone.*

66

1 CORINTHIANS 1:7

*“So that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Eagerly waiting — the whole church is a community of expectant patience. Not idly waiting, not waiting without purpose, but eagerly — the same word used of someone who cannot wait for what is coming. The church at its best is the most forward-looking community on earth, sustained by the certainty of who is coming.

67

HEBREWS 10:25

*“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

So much the more as you see the Day approaching — the closer the return of Christ, the more the community needs one another. Patient endurance is not a solo discipline. It is sustained by presence, by exhortation, by the gathering of people who remind each other of what they are waiting for.

68

ROMANS 15:5

*“Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus.”*

The God of patience and comfort — God is identified as the source of patience itself. It is His patience, given to us. And it produces unity: like-mindedness toward one another, according to Christ. The patient community is a united community, because patience has absorbed the offences that would otherwise divide it.

69

HEBREWS 13:14

*“For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.”*

We seek the one to come — the patience of the church is grounded in its identity as a pilgrim people. This city is not home. What we are waiting for is the city God is building, the one that does not pass away. This is what every act of patient endurance is oriented toward: a city whose builder and maker is God.

## THE END OF PATIENCE: WHAT WE ARE WAITING FOR

*Every act of patient endurance is moving toward something. The end is worth the whole journey.*

70

REVELATION 21:4

*“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*

The former things have passed away — this is the destination of all patient endurance. Everything that patience has been enduring — the grief, the delay, the suffering, the waiting — will be gathered into a category called former things and done away with permanently. Not improved. Not managed. Passed away. Replaced by something God Himself will wipe into existence with His own hand. This is what patience is waiting for. And it is enough.

Seventy witnesses to the same truth: the God who made you is not finished with you, the promise He spoke has not expired, the delay you are living through is not a mistake, and the end He has in view is worth every moment of the wait.

**Let patience have its perfect work. Do not give up before the harvest. Run with endurance the race that is set before you, looking to Jesus — the author and finisher of your faith.**

ACLOSINGPRAYER

*Lord, I confess that waiting is hard.*

*That the silence sometimes feels like absence,  
and the delay sometimes feels like denial.*

*Teach me the patience of Abraham,  
who believed what he could not yet see.*

*Teach me the patience of Christ,  
who for joy endured what no one else could bear.*

*Direct my heart into Your love  
and into the patience that is in You.*

***Amen.***