

God is Patience

Series: *God Is*

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Things To Get Us Started:

- Impatience is everywhere in our world. Patience is an area we are to grow in. It takes work, it takes understanding people and it is something that God can give us.
- God's patience is seen in how He handles situations. God does not "fly off the handle" at us.
- It seems that at times, we find mercy, grace, and kindness together with patience.

What The Bible Says About God's Patience

God's patience is seen in how He responds to people

- **Rom. 2:1-4** talks about God's patience. Paul was speaking to a group of people who were very judgmental of others without wanting to face their own issues. They saw **Rom. 1** as applying to other people but not themselves.
- The word "presume" at the beginning of **Rom. 2:4** means "to think little or nothing of, to despise."
- These people thought they might get away with doing wrong.
- We must never take for granted God's kindness and patience.
- The word "forbearance" in **Rom. 2:4** in Greek writings had the idea of "holding something back, delaying something, or putting something off." God delays judgment, and because of Christ, He is patient and kind with us, giving us time to repent.
- The word "patience" (**Rom. 2:4**), when speaking of God, talks of His self-restraint, of His not retaliating for a wrong done to Him.
- See **Num. 14:18**, **Ps. 86:15**; **Joel 2:13**; **Gen. 6**. These verses show God's patience with people.

God's patience is seen in the timing of His return

- **2 Peter 3:9** teaches that God's patience regarding His return is because God wants more people to know Him.
- 2 Peter mentions three types of people that God is patient with. More could be added but note the following three.
- The **first group** is those who are called "scorners." They laugh at the truth (**2 Peter 3:3**) of God. These people ridicule and make fun of God and His followers.
- The **second group** are those who do what they want to do (**2 Peter 3:3**). They follow their own sinful desires. They make choices and choose to live in sin. They may include "scorners."
- The **third group** are those who ignore God by choice. This is seen in **2 Peter 3**. They choose

to live without God and have no interest in Him and what He offers.

God's patience and rule over all creation work together

- God's Sovereignty reminds us that even when we are impatient about something, He knows what is going on. Don't get de-railed because we became impatient over something. Remember that God wants to work in all these situations that we encounter.

Some Things To Take With Us

Be patient with others as God is patient with us

- **Gal. 5:22** tells us that when we are trusting in God and allowing Him to control our lives, we will be patient with others.
- Think of how patient God is with us. Even with difficult people we can respond in the right way and leave it with God (**Rom. 12**). Pray for them and be gracious and kind.
- When we are in a situation that needs immediate attention, we can voice our opinions, but we don't have to blow up. Be firm and patient. If someone messes up this week, show them patience.
- **2 Peter 3:14** tells us to live in a way that reflects God.

God patience is not a green light to live any way we want

- **Rom. 6:1** warns us about this. He will correct us because He loves us. God wants us to live morally upright lives in every area of our beings (**1 Peter 1:15-16**). See **Heb. 12** and God's correcting work in our lives.
- Keep short sin accounts with God. Deal with things and allow Him to work in us to live a life that honors Him (**1 Jn. 3:4-10**).

Be patient as God works in our lives

- See **Phil. 1:6**; **Phil 2:12-13**. God works in us throughout our lives.
- **2 Peter 3:14** reminds us of how we are to live.
- God is working in our lives and knows what He is doing. Do not rush God. His timing may be different than ours.

Spend time thanking God for being so patient with us, and in turn, show patience to someone this week.