

# **GOD WANTS YOU TO BE PATIENT**

**A Bible Teaching by Jack Hartman**

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God *always* does what His Word says He will do (see I Corinthians 1:9). However, God often does not do what He says He will do as soon as you would like Him to do whatever you are trusting Him for. This month we will study 15 different Scripture references on the subject of *patience*. As you study and meditate on the Scripture references in this month's teaching, we believe that you will be able to trust God's timing just as much as you trust Him in every other area. (All of the following Scripture references are from *The Amplified Bible*.)

**DO NOT BLOCK GOD FROM ANSWERING YOUR PRAYERS BECAUSE YOU ARE IMPATIENT.** "...everyone who is impatient and hasty hastens only to want." (Proverbs 21:5)

Please note the word "everyone" in this verse. *All* people who are impatient ultimately will bring problems into their lives. Carefully study the Scripture references in this Bible teaching to learn exactly what the Word of God teaches about patience.

**GOD'S TIMING IS VERY SPECIFIC.** "To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter or purpose under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Please note the word "everything" at the beginning of this verse. God has a specific time for *everything*. These words that God spoke through the author of the book of Ecclesiastes also are God's words to you today.

God often does not do things when we think He should. God knows what is best for each of His children. If He requires you to continue to trust Him for a longer period of time than you think you want to, place absolute confidence in God's timing. Turn away from any self-imposed deadlines first. God is never late. His timing is perfect.

**A DEFINITE RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN PRIDE AND IMPATIENCE.** "...the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." (Ecclesiastes 7:8)

When proud and self-centered people do not receive immediate results, they often attempt to take matters into their own hands. They try to make things happen.

Do not rush ahead of God. Pride and impatience go together. Humility and patience go together. Humble yourself before God. Do *not* attempt to rush God.

**GOD INSTRUCTS YOU TO BE PATIENT JUST AS FARMERS OFTEN ARE REQUIRED TO BE PATIENT.** "...See how the farmer waits expectantly for the precious harvest from the land. [See how] he keeps up his patient [vigil] over it until it receives the early and late rains. So you also must be patient..." (James 5:7-8)

The apostle Paul wrote these words in a letter to a man named James who is identified in the Bible as the brother of Jesus Christ (see Mark 6:3). When this passage of Scripture was written, farmers carefully planted seeds so that the early rain would fall shortly after the seeds were put into the ground. This early rain helped the seeds to germinate. The farmers tried to plant their crops so that the late rain would come just before the time of harvest to help their crops to ripen.

Farmers know that they cannot rush the harvest of the seeds they have planted. Farmers understand that different crops have different germination periods. They wait patiently for the seeds they have planted to produce a harvest. Your Father wants you to wait patiently for Him to answer your prayers just as farmers wait patiently for their crop to come in.

**A DEFINITE RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN YOUR FAITH IN GOD AND HAVING PATIENCE THAT GOD WILL HONOR YOUR FAITH.**

These words the Bible speaks of, "...behaving as do those who through faith (by their leaning of the entire personality on God in Christ in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness) and by practice of patient endurance and waiting are [now] inheriting the promises." (Hebrews 6:12)

Please note the explanation of faith in the first amplification in this verse. Faith is described as the "leaning of the entire personality on God in Christ

in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom and goodness.” Place every bit of your confidence in God. Know that the Word of God says that you *will* receive what God has promised *if* you add “patient endurance and waiting” to your faith in God.

Our generation is much more impatient on the whole than previous generations. Fast food restaurants have blossomed during this generation. The use of microwave ovens has increased substantially. We have one hour dry cleaning and rapid oil changes.

One example of widespread impatience can be seen on our highways. The speed limit is meaningless to many people. Many impatient drivers speedily weave in and out of traffic lanes only to end up being one or two car lengths ahead at the next traffic light. Many people today want what they want *now*.

**CONTINUALLY PLANT SUPERNATURAL SEEDS FROM GOD’S WORD IN YOUR HEART, THEN WAIT PATIENTLY FOR GOD TO DO WHAT HE PROMISES TO DO.** “...as for that [seed] in the good soil, these are [the people] who, hearing the Word, hold it fast in a just (noble, virtuous) and worthy heart, and steadily bring forth fruit with patience.” (Luke 8:15)

The Word of God is a spiritual seed. If you faithfully obey God’s instructions to renew your mind in His Word each day (see II Corinthians 4:16 and Ephesians 4:23) and to meditate day and night on the holy Scriptures (see Psalm 1:1-3 and Joshua 1:8), you will continually plant spiritual seeds from God’s Word into the fertile spiritual soil of your mind and your heart.

**GOD WANTS YOUR LIFE TO BE CONTROLLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.** “...walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit].” (Galatians 5:16)

Please note the word “habitually” in the first amplification in this verse. Your Father wants you to surrender control of your life to the Holy Spirit throughout every day of your life.

**YOU WILL NOT BE IMPATIENT IF THE HOLY SPIRIT TRULY IS IN CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE.** “...through the [Holy] Spirit's [help], by faith anticipate and wait for the blessing.” (Galatians 5:5)

Continually give up control of your life. The Holy Spirit will help you to be patient *if* He truly is in control of your life.

**IF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE, HE WILL PRODUCE THE SPIRITUAL FRUIT OF PATIENCE IN YOU.** "...the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, **patience** (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control..." (Galatians 5:22-23)

This verse describes the different fruit that the Holy Spirit will produce if He truly is in control of your life. I have put the word "patience" in bold print in this verse. You will be patient to the degree that the Holy Spirit truly is in control of your life. You will be impatient to the degree that you insist on controlling your life.

**WAIT PATIENTLY FOR GOD TO ANSWER YOUR PRAYERS.** "...if we hope for what is still unseen by us, we wait for it with patience and composure." (Romans 8:25)

The word "composure" in this verse is very important. Your Father wants you to be calm, cool, and confident regardless of what is happening to you (see II Timothy 4:5). Do not block your Father from blessing you. "...let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint." (Galatians 6:9)

Your Father does not want you to grow weary while you are waiting for Him to answer your prayer. Trust Him to do everything "in due time and at the appointed season." Refuse to give up.

**TRUST GOD COMPLETELY TO DO WHAT HE SAYS THAT HE WILL DO IN HIS GOOD TIMING.** "...wait [expectantly] for your God continually." (Hosia 12:6)

Your Father does not want you to give up. He instructs you to wait "expectantly" and "continually" for Him to do what He promises to do.

**IF YOU ARE CALM, QUIET, AND CONFIDENT AND YOU PLACE ALL OF YOUR HOPE IN GOD, YOU WILL LIVE YOUR LIFE THE WAY THAT YOUR FATHER WANTS YOU TO LIVE.** “Be still and rest in the Lord; wait for Him and patiently lean yourself upon Him...” (Psalm 37:7)

Do not allow yourself to become upset if you do not receive what you want at the time you want to receive it. Your Father instructs you to “be still.” He instructs you to “rest” in Him.

I pray that the Scripture references in the Bible teaching will help many people to become more patient. Meditate day and night on these Scripture references. Do what God instructs you to do. If you do, you *will* become more patient.