**BIBLE - PATIENCE**

***HEBREWS 12:1 – TEXT***

**INTRODUCTION** – We live in a fast paced society where patience is not often seen as a virtue. Have you ever given though to why fast food chains developed, primarily because people want their food and service quickly, they did not want to wait. When I got my drivers license at age 15 there was no such thing as road rage, but today it is quite common among drivers who are in such a hurry to get to the base, or work or school that they endanger others. Patience is something we all need but it is of vital importance to the Christian.

Define the term – patience – Means to bear up under courageously, forbear, endurance, steadfastness (stand pat) and perseverance, a patient steadfast waiting for, a patience enduring and sustaining in reference to trials.

**HEB. 12:1** - ***Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*** KJV- ASV – Render the word endurance – patience. The RSV – NIV renders the word perseverance.

***PATIENCE:***

1. **IS IT** **NEEDED?**
2. **JER. 15:15** – It is an attribute of God. The prophet says God possesses enduring patience. If patience is part of the character of God then we certainly need it in our lives.
3. **JAMES 5:10** – The record declares the prophets are examples to us of suffering and patience. If patience was needed by those who spoke for God by inspiration then certainly we as Christians have need of patience. James is instructing us to take the prophets as examples when it comes to patience.
4. **2 PET. 1:5-6** – The apostle Peter urges us to add patience (perseverance) to our faith. It is needed so we can be able to enter the everlasting kingdom – vs. 10-11
5. **JAMES 1:4** – Patience is needed so we will lack nothing. If we do not have it then we are lacking in the sight of God.
6. **LUKE 21:19** – Our patience is needed to possess our souls if it is lacking we can lose our souls. In the context Jesus is talking about patiently enduring persecution.
7. **MATT. 18:26-29** – We must be consistent. If we desire others to be patient with us then we must be patient with them.
8. **ROM. 8:24-25** – Patience is connected to our hope of heaven.
9. **HOW IS IT** **OBTAINED?**
   * 1. **HEB. 12:1** – We must have endurance. We must patiently run the race.
     2. **HEB. 10:36** – Endurance and patience is needed to receive the promise.
     3. **JAMES 5:11** – Endure and persevere like the prophets. They are our examples
     4. **2 THESS. 1:4** – Look at the brethren at Thessalonica and how they overcame.
     5. **HEB. 6:10-12** – We are to imitate those who have patience in their lives.
     6. **ROM. 15:4-5** – Purpose of OT examples to help us patiently endure.
     7. **REV. 2:2-3** – We must not become weary.
10. **HOW DO WE** **DEVELOP IT?**
    * 1. **JAMES 1:3** – We are tested by trials.
      2. **1 TIM. 6:11** – We must pursue patience.
      3. **TITUS 2:1-2** – As we grow older we should become more patient.
      4. **ROM. 5:1-5** – Tribulations produce patience.
      5. **1 COR. 15:58** – By being steadfast and working for the Lord.
      6. **GAL. 5:22-26** – By living in the Spirit and walking in the Spirit.
      7. **REV. 14:12-13** – We develop it by keeping the commands of the Lord – faith.

**CONCLUSION** –

How would we rate our patience?

How does God view our patience?

God is patiently waiting for you and me?

God does not want us to perish!!!

**2 PET. 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***