



Patience

A brief study.



How many of you made New Year's Resolutions?

- What is the purpose of making a New Year's Resolution?
- How many people do you think fulfill their Resolutions? (%)
- Why is it so difficult?



10 Top New Year's Resolutions for Success & Happiness in 2020

- 1. Actually doing my New Year's resolution
- 2. Trying something new
- 3. Eat more of my favorite foods
- 4. Lose weight/diet
- 5. Go to the gym
- 6. Be happier/better mental health
- 7. Be more healthy
- 8. Be a better person
- 9. Upgrade my technology
- 10. Staying motivated

Studies show that about 60 percent of us make New Year's resolutions each year; only about 8 percent of us achieve them.



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What do all these resolutions have in common?

Galatians 5:16-26



16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.



The Fruit of the Spirit = SINGULAR

- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control
- Package-deal ... all included; not like the gifts.

What is the purpose of the Fruit?



The Fruit of the Spirit = LIKENESS OF CHRIST

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.** And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.



The Fruit of the Spirit = ETERNAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control

What do we mean by an “attribute” of God?

What is the difference between a “communicable” and “incommunicable” attribute of God? Examples of each?



Christians are being transformed into the image of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

12 Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech— 13 unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. 14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. 15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. 16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, just as **by the Spirit of the Lord**.



Christians are being transformed into the image of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

What the Bible tells us is true. We are told that the Holy Spirit is transforming us

So, why is it so hard to be patient?

What are some root causes of impatience?



An Attribute of God: Patience

- Most see God's Mercy, Grace & Patience as their separate attributes.
- But, each can be understood as **specific aspects of God's goodness**.
 - These three characteristics of God's nature are often mentioned together, especially in the Old Testament.
 - When God declared his name to Moses, he proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, [slow to anger](#), and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Ex. 34:6).
 - David says in Psalm 103:8, "The LORD is merciful and gracious, [slow to anger](#) and abounding in steadfast love."



Patience: Specific Aspects of God's Goodness

- God's **mercy** means God's goodness toward those in misery and distress.
- God's **grace** means God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment.
- God's **patience** means God's goodness in withholding of punishment toward those who sin over a period of time.



Patience: Other Terms Used in Scripture

The Old Testament frequently speaks of God as “slow to anger”, “longsuffering” – showing “forbearance” toward His people.

What does it mean that God is longsuffering?

- That God is slow to anger and restrained in temper.
 - Nehemiah 9:16-21; Isaiah 30:18 (then read 30:8+...)
- God’s waiting love, or patience in the face of provocation to judgement.
 - Deut. 9:6-8 = Deut. 30:1-14
 - It is God’s restraint and postponement of judgment that instantly merited.
 - God passes over sins that out to be immediately/presently condemned
- It is God’s forbearance that allows Him to persist with offered forgiveness.



Patience: Other Terms Used in Scripture

God's longsuffering is that patient, breadth of love – His forbearance that withholds judgement so that grace and mercy might be offered to sinners.

Key examples of when God showed His patience in:

The Old Testament?

The New Testament?

Romans 2:3-4



3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you [presume on the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience](#), not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

How do we “presume on the riches of [God’s] kindness and forbearance and patience”?

Why is God patient? Why does show us forbearance?

1 Timothy 1:16



16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. 17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

We – as Christians – are to imitate God’s patience.

- be “slow to anger” (James 1:19),
- be patient in suffering as Christ was (1 Peter 2:20).
- We are to lead a life “with patience” (Eph. 4:2),
- “patience” is listed among the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22

What is our motivation to grow in patience?

How do we do this in our lives now?

Romans 15:1-7



We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” 4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 **May the God**

(of patience and comfort – NKJV)

(of endurance and encouragement – ESV)

(who gives endurance and encouragement NASB)

grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion & Application

From what you learned about God's Patience:

1. Why is it that we become impatient and are not longsuffering with others?
2. How are we to better walk and display patience in our lives?
3. Why should we do this? The purpose?