



# **Women Building Godly Lives**

*The wisest of women builds her own house,  
but folly with her own hands tears it down. Prov. 14:1*

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## **Patience My Foot**

by Wilburta Arrowood

I watched my mother open the medicine cabinet to retrieve the toothpaste when suddenly she grabbed the tube and gave it a violent twist.

“Mom!” I exclaimed.

She turned to me, eyes flashing and said, “I bought him his own tube and he still squeezed mine in the middle!” Later we were able to laugh about it, but at the moment Mom’s patience had reached the end. It is often the small things that try us the most. You know, those little things that happen over and over, drip, drip, drip.

So how do we cope with those, let alone the bigger trials? We must turn to God’s word and practice patience. Practice makes perfect. Galatians 5:22 tells us, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.” That sounds easy, but in actuality it can be quite difficult. It takes practice, and we won’t always get it right, but it is worth the effort. Ephesians 4:1-3 tells us, “Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Are we diligent?

Sometimes it helps to put ourselves in the other person’s shoes. From experience I can say it is easier to be patient with those we love, but even those can try us at times. It would have been very easy to sharply discipline my foster son for his rudeness the day he lashed out at my mom when she told him she loved him. He stormed, “Well, I don’t love you!” Was he rude? Yes. Was that unacceptable behavior? Yes. However, Mom and I both realized that every person who had ever told this child they loved him had dealt serious physical harm to him. No wonder he wanted no part of anyone’s love. That situation was easy to understand. However, we often have no clue what another person is experiencing.

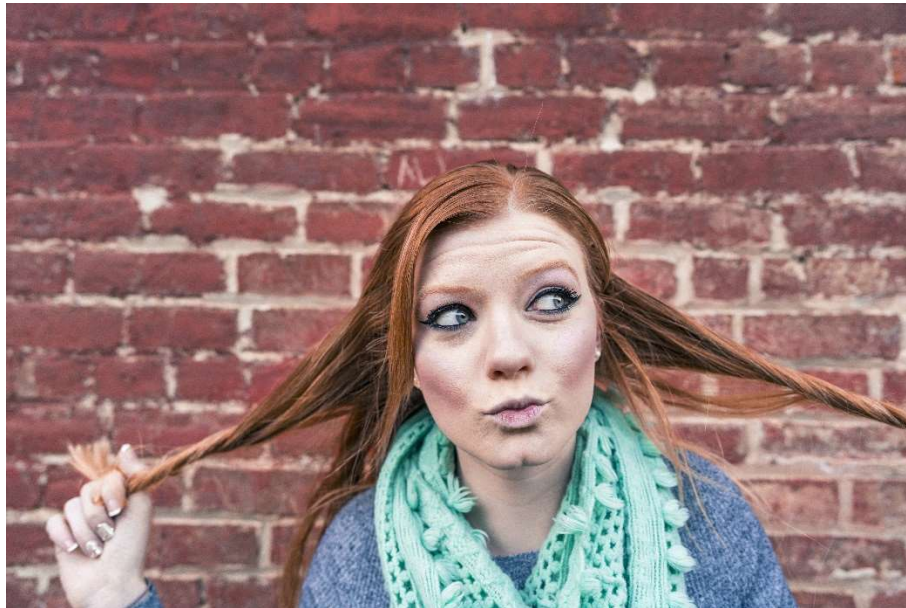
We have bad days when we deal with broken appliances, a serious illness diagnosed, chronic pain, loss of a loved one, broken relationships, financial loss, or a myriad of other maladies. Often we wear those hurts deep inside, but in spite of good intentions they erupt in sharp words, or worse. I would pray we would take time to give one another the benefit of compassion and exercise patience when that happens. We also need to remember children have bad days, too. Temper tantrums are unacceptable, but when we understand where they stem from, we can more easily diffuse with patience. Discipline is not always punishment. It is

important to act rather than react. Take time to consider all factors involved. Discipline, but do it with patience.

Is it always easy to be patient? No. Is it worth it? Yes. When we exercise patience, it can save a relationship that might otherwise be lost. It also helps to keep our blood pressure in control, which in turn keeps us healthier, both physically and spiritually.

James 1:2-8 tells us how to be perfect. “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ...”

I want that perfection, so I must practice patience.



## **A Patient Reputable Attitude**

by Alice Simmons

I have often wondered why we are labeled as ‘Patients’ in the medical fields. Is it because we usually are expected to ‘wait’ to see the doctor? I believe the label fits perfectly! In 2 Peter 1:5-10 we read of the “seven Christian graces” which are areas in our lives that we must acquire in order to be pleasing to God. Steadfastness (patience) is number four on the list, preceded by virtue, knowledge, and self-control. One might ask “why is patience number four and not first, second or third?” Perhaps the Apostle Peter realized that patience is a quality asset that is built on one’s goodness (virtue), the knowledge of God’s Word, and using self-control, then patience, which is an outward display of self-control.

The Greek word for steadfastness means enduring, constancy. In other words, maintaining a steady attitude such as in setbacks, disappointments, losses, misunderstandings, and misguided disagreements when, between friends, can lead to problems. However, patiently understanding one another’s reasoning helps to solve any issue.

Each of us is blessed with a personality of our own. No two people are exactly alike, even though sometimes we expect others to think, act, and feel as we do; when they do not, then we get upset. Disagreements bring problems because we cannot accept another person’s ideas in

matters of opinion. Of course, we know that in the Lord's Church, there is no room for opinions. God's Word must always be the standard (II Timothy 3: 16-17).

Learning to be patient with our church family does not come naturally, but when we set our minds to practice using self-control, thinking positive, being pleasant, caring, and loving to others, we can improve. Sometimes there are those who are more difficult to 'deal' with, and that is when our patience is tried. However, praying for guidance in handling adverse situations not only helps us, but gives us time to think about the effects of our reactions. Our church friends can, and should be, our best friends. Best friends can always overlook faults and have patience with one another.

Our church family should be important to us. God set up the church so that every member has a part to do (Romans 12: 4-5). Just as the various parts of our bodies work together, so must every member interact with each other harmoniously. Each one doing his/her part is important for any local congregation to function well. Otherwise, the Lord's body will be out of balance and become spiritually weak and sick. Yes, there will always be closer relationships with some more than others. But steadfastness requires us to be peaceful with the entire church family (Hebrews 13:1).

The hymn we often sing, "This World Is Not My Home," expresses the fact that we are in the world, but we are not of the world. We are here to teach others about God, the Lord's Church, and to set the proper example for the world (Matthew 5:14; 28:19).

There is a poem that expresses this idea/thought very well:

You're writing a Gospel,  
A chapter each day,  
By the things that you do,  
By the words that you say;  
Men read what you write,  
Whether faithless or true;  
Say, what is the Gospel  
According to you?  
-Paul Gilbert

The lack of patience/perseverance is easily detected. Be strong. Be patient. Each of us has issues/sins to overcome. Perfection is not inborn, but is something for which we must strive. Being patient with others is a true Christian grace!



# Impatience Leads to Disobedience

by Amanda Stephanus

Throughout Holy Writ the concept of patience appears frequently. David penned the following: “Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!” Psalm 27:14. Unfortunately, we know there were those who did not wait on the Lord and suffered the consequences.

When thinking of those who were impatient, Sarai is one of the first ones that comes to mind. In Genesis 15:1-5, God promised Abram an heir that would be a blessing to all nations. Unfortunately, Sarai became impatient while waiting for the fulfillment of this promise. “Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.” (Genesis 16:1-2). Sarai’s foolish decision led to some very unfavorable consequences.

Even though it was Sarai’s idea, she blamed Abram (v. 5) and told him she was despised by Hagar. It is difficult to imagine what it must have been like for Sarai to watch her maid swell with child, knowing it was because of her own impatience. To add insult to injury, Sarai was now looked down upon and treated differently by Hagar. Abram tells Sarai to do with Hagar as she pleased, which then led Sarai to commit another sin – dealing harshly with Hagar (v. 6). There are times that our impatience leads us to further sinful actions. When we don’t get the desired result from not waiting, we sometimes lash out at others instead of taking responsibility. It was not Hagar’s fault Sarai was impatient and sent her to Abram. Sarai’s lack of patience with God also led to the beginning of a lineage that would cause problems for generations to come. Genesis 16:12 tells us that Hagar’s son, Ishmael, would be at odds with every man and he would dwell in the presence of his kinsmen. We know today that this is referring to part of the ancestors of the Arabians (Jackson, n.p.). Our actions may not lead to the rise of an entire nation, but they do have the potential to affect multiple generations in our own families for years to come. Sadly, we continue to see the consequences of Sarai’s unwise decision continue even after she gives birth to her son Isaac. Genesis 21:8-21 tells us of the problems Ishmael caused, compelling Abram to send Hagar and Ishmael away.

Waiting on God might seem difficult in the moment, especially when we desire things to happen on our time schedule. However, as Christians we can rest assured that God will keep His promises (Hebrews 6:13-20), He will answer our prayers (1 Peter 3:12) and He is good to those who wait upon Him (Lamentations 3:25).

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# Perseverance

by Elizabeth Turner Beall

Life in general can be hard, trying, and tiring. Add to that the challenges of doing the Lord's work with people not responding to the gospel the way we had hoped, people not wanting to study in the first place, or their laughter at the thought of God or the Bible as truth. Perhaps some have been baptized and faithful for a while, but go back into their worldly ways. How do we keep on keeping on? Sometimes we are so overwhelmed by the sinfulness of the world around us, we just want to quit. Paul answers these questions in I Corinthians 15:1-57. Then, in verse 58 he tells us "therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

Let's look at some of the words Paul used before we look at his explanation.

The word "therefore" is a grammatical bridge word that ties everything together; in this case verses 1 through 57, and is the reason he gives us verse 58.

"Steadfast" in English means unwavering, committed, devoted, firmly fixed. In Greek the word is "*hedraioi*" and means "seated," or "morally fixed." (Vine 1096)

"Immovable" in English means "anchored" or "fixed firm." The Greek word "*ametakinetos*" means "not to be moved from its place." (Thayer 32)

"Abounding" (or abundant) in English means very plentiful, or to excel. The Greek word "*perisseuo*" means to "exceed," or be "above and beyond." (Vine 20)

"Knowing," in English, means the state of being aware, realizing, or understanding.

"Labor," in English simply means to work. But the Greek word "*kopos*" means "toil resulting in weariness." (Vine 643) We might use the expression in English, "bone tired."

"Vain," in English means useless, empty, or pointless. The Greek word "*kenos*" means "hollowness," "void of results," "empty." (Vine 356)

With these definitions in mind, Paul is commanding us to *be* something, and that "something" in this case is committed, dependable, firmly fixed (morally), and anchored in our faith and love for Christ; that our bone-tiring work for the Lord be in great numbers, realizing that all we do for Christ our Lord is not empty or pointless. Why is Paul being so strong here? Let's look at the reasons he gives.

Paul begins by telling a summary of the gospel: "...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures . . ." (15:3-4). Then in verses 12-19 he is saying that if Christ is not risen from the dead, then preaching and faith are pointless, we are still in our sins, those who have died are just gone (perished), and our hope is in this life only. Why bother to try to be good if Christ has not risen? What a bleak picture that paints!

But Paul continues and tells us that Christ "is risen from the dead," and that He will come again and "deliver the Kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and all power" (verses 20-24). Paul then tells us about our own resurrection and how we will be changed from fleshly to immortal. What a glorious thought!

If we have committed our lives to Christ, "put on Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27), we have been symbolically raised from spiritual death when we came up out of the water of baptism. If we put Him first in our lives (Matthew 6:33) and daily "walk in the light" (I John 1:7), we will be ready for that last resurrection and be able to live forever with Christ through eternity. That is something to look forward to with great hope!

When we are caught up in the challenges of life in general, and frustrated and discouraged doing the Lord's work, stop a moment and ask God for strength, calm, and a clear

mind to do what needs to be done. Then, think about the happiness and peace in Heaven—seeing Christ, God, family, and friends—forever. What great joy that will be! Yes, life and the Lord’s work are hard at times, maybe more than we would like. But let’s remember that our suffering here will be like nothing when compared to 1) the sacrifice of God the Father, 2) the willful suffering of God the Son, and 3) the beauty and glory of Heaven and 4) being eternally with God (Romans 8:18). We must have hope. We must keep the faith. We *must* persevere!

Works Cited:

Thayer, Joseph Henry, D.D. *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Marshall, Delaware. The National Foundation for Christian Education.

Vine, W. E., M. A. *A Comprehensive Dictionary of the Original Greek Words with the Precise Meanings for English*. Iowa Falls, Iowa. Riverside Book and Bible House.



Questions to Consider:

1. What is one area of your life where you could use more patience? 2. How can you encourage other Christian women to wait patiently on God? 3. How do trials and tribulations in a Christian’s life make one stronger? (James 1:2-4) 4. What factors are involved in stress-related health issues? 5. How can we practice the trait of being patient? 6. Why would the Holy Spirit list “patience” (steadfastness) as a qualification for

Elders (II Timothy 3:3)? 7. How does all of I Corinthians chapter 15 encourage you to persevere?



Ideas for applying this topic:

1. Find at least one scripture in the New Testament that shows God’s patience with us. 2. We have all heard the saying about the “patience of Job.” Look at his life and list some of the “trying of patience” that Job faced. 3. Write out a verse regarding waiting on the Lord on a notecard and hang it where you’ll see it often. 4. List what makes you impatient, then consider what you could do to break the “impatient” habit. You might work with another sister. Together the two of you can encourage each other. 5. If events make you impatient, i.e. waiting in lines, etc., try praying while waiting.

Suggestions for prayers:

1. Be specific in your prayers to God – tell Him what you’re struggling to wait on and ask for His help. 2. Ask God to help you with your impatience when people are involved, then . . . 3. Pray for the people who might cause your impatience.

Just for fun, a coloring page for you. Hang it up so you can see it every day.

Share this newsletter with your friends. They can subscribe here:  
<https://mailchi.mp/f1e57c61fd14/women-building-godly-lives>





Have  
patience,  
God  
isn't finished  
yet.

*Philippians 1:6*