

Assurance 101

Lesson 4

Patience

PART I EXPLANATION

Introduction: We come now to the fourth link in the chain of biblical assurance. We have emphasized the importance of having virtuous character added to our faith, Bible knowledge, temperance, and now we come to the subject of endurance in these previous three areas. This subject is linked to assurance in that it deals with the principle of continuance in our Christian profession. It is easy to see that if a person does not persist in their profession, they are not going to have biblical assurance of the genuineness of their conversion. The Bible tells us in I John 2:19 that “*they went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*”

The primary reason that many professing Christians do not endure or last is because they are not genuinely saved. However, it is not an absolute statement that anyone who departs for a short time is not converted. It is also not an absolute sign that someone is genuinely saved that is faithful coming to church for decades. This endurance is not just in the outward works of coming to church, many unconverted people are faithful to church attendance. Failure for a person to maintain virtue, growing in knowledge, and self control is an indication that their nature hasn't changed and that is why it doesn't last.

That is why this particular attribute is mentioned in this place. In order to produce a biblical assurance of salvation there must be a continuance of the previous three links in the chain. By having a continuance in these areas reveals that the fruit of the individual is enduring and not just a “flash in the pan” that sparkles for a while but soon vanishes. Jesus explained this concept in His parable of the sower that these professors do not endure because they have no root. He explained that when tribulation or persecution arises from the changes they have made in life, immediately they are offended and return to their old lifestyle.

This character trait is one that is very difficult to add to our faith. It is one that comes almost exclusively through trials, which would explain why so few people desire or possess it. The Bible concept of patience refers to the ability to endure trials **with the right attitude**. That is why we are encouraged to “*let patience have her perfect work.*” Our nature is just the opposite which is to fight trials and attempt to avoid them at all cost. To add this to our faith and pass the test requires enduring under the trial without fretting, murmuring, or discontent. To run from our trials will not make them go away; they will resurface later and usually in such a way that we cannot avoid them.

Throughout the Bible when it mentions this concept of patience it is frequently connected with our hope of eternal life. True hope is a confident expectation of eternal life and salvation. To fall away from our profession indicates that we have lost our hope of salvation. Despite the trials and afflictions faced in this life by a Christian they will only endure if they maintain that hope. It is when hope is lost that a person gives up on their profession. The Bible challenges us to hold fast the profession of our faith steadfast unto the end. Failure to hold fast should be a grave warning to the professing saint of their lack of genuine faith.

Definitions: For English use the Webster's 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong's Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong's number is in parenthesis.

English: **Patience** -

Greek: (5278) **hupomeno** *hoop-om-en'-o*

(5281) **hupomone** *hoop-om-on-ay'*

Quotation:

“Hope is a virgin of a fair and clear countenance; her proper seat is upon earth, her proper object is in heaven... Faith is her attorney-general, prayer her solicitor, patience her physician, charity her almoner, thankfulness her treasurer, confidence her vice-admiral, the promise of God her anchor, peace her chair of state, and eternal glory her crown.” Thomas Adams

“Patience to the soul is as bread to the body...we eat bread with all our meats, both for health and relish; bread with flesh, bread with fish, bread with broths and fruits. Such is patience to every virtue; we must hope with patience, and pray in patience, and love with patience, and whatsoever good thing we do, let it be done with patience.” Thomas Adams

“The patient man is merry indeed...The jailers that watch him are but his pages of honor, and his very dungeon but the lower side of the vault of heaven. He kisseth the wheel that must kill him; and thinks the stairs of the scaffold of his martyrdom but so many degrees of his ascent to glory. The tormentors are weary of him, the beholders have pity on him, all men wonder at him; and while he seems below all men, below himself, he is above nature. He hath so overcome himself, that nothing can conquer him.” Thomas Adams

“They who are wicked, although they cannot see the goodness of other virtues, yet can see the goodness of patience, and perceive when they see a patient man and an impatient man both sick of one disease; yet both are not troubled alike, but that he who has most patience has most ease, and he who is most impatient is most tormented, like a fish which strives with the hook.” Henry Smith

“Our physician makes these outward blisters in our bodies, to draw out the poisonous corruption that is in our souls: and therefore let us endure what He imposes with patience, and never murmur against Him for effecting His cure; knowing that it is but childish folly to abhor the medicine more than the disease...” George Downname

“To lengthen my patience is the best way to shorten my troubles.” George Swinnock

“Imagine yourself now well equipped and marching toward heaven while basking in prosperity. Should you not also prepare for foul weather – i.e., a period of adversity? Satan will line the hedges with a thousand temptations when you come into the narrow lanes of adversity, where you cannot run as in the day of your prosperity. You may manage to escape an alluring world, only to be flattened when trouble strikes, unless you know how to persevere. Therefore, the apostle commands, ‘to temperance [add] patience’.” William Gurnall

“Patience must not be an inch shorter than affliction.” Thomas Adams

“A child of God never more triumphs than in his greatest troubles.” Richard Sibbes

“It is and should be the care of a Christian, not to suffer for sin, nor sin in suffering.” Vavasor Powell

“Sufferings are but as little chips of the cross.” Joseph Church

Confessions (Look up and read these articles)

London Baptist Confession of 1689

Chapter 18 Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation - paragraphs 1-4

PART II EXPLORATION

Key Questions (*Answer in writing*)

1. What areas does a person need to exhibit patience in to produce biblical assurance?
2. Why is there a link between patient endurance and biblical assurance of salvation?
3. What is the primary reason that professing Christians do not endure?
4. Give several reasons why faithful church attendance is not the patience this verse is describing?
5. What does failure to endure indicate about a person's nature?
6. How does the parable of the sower illustrate this principle of patience?
7. Explain how the word patience is used differently in this verse than the way we normally use it. (Hint: look at Webster's definition)
8. What key concept is continually linked to patience throughout the Scriptures? Why?
9. How does biblical patience come?
10. What is our natural response to trials? What does that lead to?

Key Scriptures:

Luke 8:15 In the parable of the sower Jesus was teaching how to identify those that were truly converted by the preaching of the gospel. The identifying mark is that they would bring forth

_____ with _____ or fruit that would last.

John 15:1-6 Jesus is called the true _____ and we are the _____. You cannot bear fruit unless you _____ in Him. Without Him you can do nothing. Those that abide not in Him are cast away and _____ and they are soon gathered together and _____.

Romans 2:7 Here the apostle Paul describes the genuine believer and the same word is translated as patient _____ describing how a Christian is to wait for eternal life.

Romans 5:3-4 Patience is the product of _____ and ultimately leads to _____.

Romans 8:25 With patience we are to _____ for the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 15:4,5 The Old Testament examples were written to give us _____ while we patiently await the Lord's return because we are able to see the God of _____ and His faithfulness to them.

Colossians 1:11 Paul prayed that the saints would be _____ in regard to their patience and that they would do it with _____.

II Thessalonians 1:4 Paul bragged to other churches about the Thessalonians patience and faith in the midst of _____ and tribulations.

Titus 2:2 The _____ men were to be an example of how to patiently wait for Christ even through their later years.

Hebrews 10:35-39 We are warned not to _____ our confidence which is of great value to the Christian. Rather, we need patience to continue doing the _____ of

_____ until we receive His promise of eternal life. God promises He will not _____ or delay His coming and that we are to _____ by _____ until He arrives and not

_____ unto _____ but believe to the saving of our soul.

Hebrews 12:1 The Christian life is viewed as a race that must be _____ with patience.

James 1:2-4 We should rejoice in the midst of trials because they are working in us the valuable commodity of _____. We are to _____ patience work in us which will ensure that we lack _____.

James 5:7-8 We are exhorted to wait for the Lord's return as a _____ waiting for his crops to come in.

Key Chapter(s) (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

Hebrews 10

PART III EXPECTATION

Memory verse: James 1:4

Personal Definition: *(Write a definition in your own words)*

Patience –

Personal Application: Identify a trial you have had in your life that you tried to run from and relate how it returned and the benefits you received from enduring it.

Meditation question: *(be prepared for discussion)* How long does it take after a person departs from the saints to be a true indicator of their salvation?

Extra Credit: Read the book of Job and observe how he endured patiently through his trials.