

Liberty Theological Seminary

Teaching Project: Psalm 62,  
Practicing Patience

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
BODY	1
CONCLUSION	7
BIBLIOGRAPHY	8

## INTRODUCTION

Good evening everyone. I hope you all are doing well. Thank you for coming to this Bible study. Tonight I'd like to talk about patience and its effects on our lives.

We've all been in a hurry to get something we thought we had to have just to realize that it was not exactly what we had envisioned in our mind's eye. Recently, I received a tablet and e-ink reader combined for my birthday from my brother. This tablet was not just a tablet, but a tablet with an lcd screen on one side and a e-ink reader, similar to the Kindle, on the other. Wow! What an amazing gift! This gift was seemingly better than the tablets I had looked at, but then shortly after, not even two months, the company shut down that supported the tablet and the books and the software.

In our current day and age we live in a society that if you don't have the newest toys and the sleekest designed car or gadgets then you must not be doing well or you must be behind the times. Patience is a virtue our country has long counted as frivolous. We can't keep up with our competitors if we're patient. We can't stay ahead of the cutting edge if we are patient. We can't succeed in this ever-changing world if we are patient.

How then do we understand patience, and how do we practice patience in our lives to a rewarding outcome?

## BODY

Let's start by looking at a great example of someone who was patient in Psalms 62. Let's open up our Bibles and read...

“Truly my soul silently waits for God; from Him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.”<sup>1</sup>

We read in Psalm 62, verses 1 and 2, that David writes about waiting on the Lord. David is writing this Psalm because he is saddened that his own son Absalom has turned against David and has made him flee his own throne! This Psalm is a type of ‘calm Psalm’. One in which David, the author, speaks with intention and still appears to have a calmness about his soul. David shows his heart after God’s as he stops and trusts in the Lord during a very turbulent time in his life.

David has a right to be angered, embittered, and just plain depressed, yet David goes to God in prayer telling God that he will wait on Him. If we were David and we knew that our son had committed the atrocities that Absalom did would we not be angered? We read in 2 Samuel 13 that Absalom murdered his brother Amnon, because Amnon had raped their sister Tamar. This horrific act that Amnon had defiled their sister made David angry, but he did nothing about it. The fact that it happened made Absalom angry, but when his father, David, did nothing about the rape Absalom took justice into his own hands. This began the long track record of Absalom’s treasonous acts toward his family which included his father, David.

Now here in Psalm 62 we have David calling out to God saying that his soul silently waits for God. Charles Spurgeon, a late 19<sup>th</sup> century preacher, has said, “To wait upon God, and for God, is the habitual position of faith; to wait on Him truly is sincerity; to wait on Him only is spiritual chastity...the good man will, therefore, in patience possess his soul till deliverance

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<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville: Word Publishing, 1997), 796.

comes: faith can hear the footsteps of coming salvation, because she has learned to be silent.”<sup>2</sup>

Spurgeon poetically sums up the meat of this verse. If we do not wait on the Lord our faith is not resilient. As we wait on the Lord with full trust our patience may be tried, but inevitably it grows our faith toward our God. This is what David meant by silently waiting for God. David knew he could trust God in his most dire circumstance; even if his family had practically been destroyed and he had been dethroned David knew God was the answer even though he was unsure of the question.

How many times do we say, “God, ok I will wait on Your guidance.” And then not a day later we talk to our friends about the circumstance we just prayed to God about and say, “Well, I believe God is telling me to go this direction.” Did we truly wait for God’s revelation in our lives? Do we know what true patience and trust are? There is a parable that states it is just as foolish to have one foot on a stone and one foot in quicksand as it is to have both feet in quicksand. We know that God is our rock. We treat Him as an island though. We begin to swim out into the unknown sea thinking that we can make our own destiny and only use the rock as a safe haven in case the seas become too tempestuous.

If this is the view of God then we miss the entirety of what David explains God to be in his Psalm. David doesn’t complain once in this Psalm about his fear, his body, or his enemies as he may do in other Psalms. This Psalm is one of tranquility toward the Lord. David knows that he can be vulnerable and completely honest with God, and God relishes in David’s trust and faith. When is the last time you have been completely vulnerable before God and let God know that you will trust Him and wait on His provision?

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<sup>2</sup> The Spurgeon Archive, “Treasury of David – Psalm 62,” The Treasury of David – by Charles H. Spurgeon, <http://www.spurgeon.org/treasury/ps062.htm> (accessed June 19, 2011).

I would like to read an excerpt from C.S. Lewis', *Mere Christianity* to put what we've been talking about into an applicable sense:

Then sense in which a Christian leaves it to God is that he puts all his trust in Christ: trusts that Christ will somehow share with him the perfect human obedience which He carried out from His birth to His crucifixion; that Christ will make the man more like Himself and, in sense, make good his deficiencies...to trust Him means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him.<sup>3</sup>

If we commit our trust entirely to God and are waiting on God patiently for all of our needs and our desires then as C.S. Lewis says we must at least strive to live out what God says to do in His word. The patience, trust, and living righteously by the word of God all become an intertwined circle. We may start with one or the other, but ultimately they all must be a part of our Christian lives.

If we decide that we are going to be patient with God our path may be simply praying and reading our Bible. Inevitably, God's word permeates our lives as we read and spend time praying to Him which in causes our lives to turn toward Him and we begin to live more upright lives in the eyes of God. As we begin living righteously before God we can't help, but by default increase our trust in Him. Each minute we spend quietly waiting on God and putting our trust in Him is a minute that we move closer to His likeness.

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<sup>3</sup> C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1952), 128-129.

Or if we decide to live righteously before God we begin by reading His word and meditating on what God has said in prayer. As we do this we by default show that our posture toward God is of trust that He will do what He says in His word. By trusting God and living righteously we may find ourselves desiring to know more about God and thus leads into our patience toward God and as David says silently waiting.

As you see no matter where we start in the patience, trust, and righteous living circle we end up combining these three as David did in his Psalm. As we read though, David began with both trust and patience which is why God called David a man after His own heart and ultimately showed that David did want to be righteous in his daily life toward God.

How do we use what David has said in Psalms in our everyday lives? The easiest way to implement the patience David showed is difficult in our fast-paced world where everyone wants a solution to their problem in minutes instead of days, weeks or even months. David's predicament was not something that went away overnight just because he was willing to take some time to stop and praise the Lord in a calm prayerful attitude.

The problem that David was intertwined in was something that was years of his own making through his own sin, but this time spent with the Lord was some of quality. There are times in each of our lives where we need to just stop; in the words of the Twix commercials we need to 'pause.' Our pause needs to be much longer than a few minutes, days, or even sometimes weeks.

Occasionally, we need to take a close look at our priorities and reconfigure our lives to allow more time for God and more time for letting the Lord into our lives. In our current culture I realize that this may seem next to impossible to do, or maybe you're even saying to yourself,

“He has no idea what my life’s schedule is like.” You’re absolutely right, I don’t, but I do know that if you don’t make time to trust in the Lord with your life then the rest of your life tends to spiral out of control. We all need to learn to ‘wait on the Lord’ and be more patient.

If we become more patient in our everyday lives our struggle to spend more time with the Lord becomes one of routine. I realize routine has a negative connotation normally, especially since I just spoke of checking your priorities and seeing where your routine can use some change, but routine with the Lord is rewarding. To be patient and wait on the Lord always proves fruitful.

Sadly, Christianity has recently lost its reputation of patience especially since one of the fruits of the spirit is patience. Prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the industrial revolution America was known for its slow paced, God-fearing belief system. Once the western culture became one of moving forward and doing whatever it takes to succeed we decided to couch patience and replace it with perseverance. More religions are positioning their belief systems as more patient by stating they are more tolerant. Tolerance has somewhat replaced patience.

One humorous story has been recorded by James Moore in his book where he states, “The point is clear: the things that matter most in life do not come quickly, easily, or simply. Not long ago, I read about a new car owner who called an auto manufacturer. He said, ‘Was it your company that announced that you recently put a car together from start to finish in seven minutes?’ ‘That’s right! We did it,’ said the executive proudly. ‘We put a car together from start to finish in just seven minutes.’ To which the caller said, ‘Well, I just want you to know, I think



I have that car!’”<sup>4</sup> We realize that our need-it-now culture foregoes the patience if we can get ‘it’ now. To get God’s attention ‘now’ we have to be consistent in our lives before Him and our lives depending on Him, as well as building a relationship.

### CONCLUSION

Earlier I asked the question, how then do we understand patience, and how do we practice patience in our lives to a rewarding outcome? Let me give you a final personal application. As most of you know, my wife and I have been trying to have children for some years now and we have talked, cried, and prayed to God. We have been frustrated, angered, and even felt hopeless about this situation at certain times in our walk with God about children. We recently have gotten to a point where we have decided to let go of our hurt and enjoy each other’s company even more. We realize that when we are ready in God’s eyes that we will have children. It has taken years, tears, and pain to realize that we needed to be as David – silently waiting for God; from Him comes (our) salvation.

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<sup>4</sup> James W. Moore and Bob J. Moore, *Lord, Give Me Patience, and Give It to Me Right Now!* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2010), 4.

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