

# *PATIENCE VS. RESTLESSNESS*

## *PARENT PREVIEW*

Click [here](#) to refer a friend to this monthly newsletter on Character Tips.

### **The Power of a Partnership and Consistency**

**If you desire** to help your child develop a high level of confidence, a polite and respectful attitude and good manners, and a desire to do what is right in the sight of God when faced with tough choices, **then we desire** to partner with you, and Lord willing, with the Grace of God, **make a BIG DIFFERENCE in what your child can achieve in life, school, sports, and relationships with others, all for the Glory of God!**

*Our program is designed to encourage children to apply God's Word to their lives, develop and learn Christ-like character and sports fitness.*

### **Definition for Class:**

**Patience is accepting a difficult situation (*from God*) without giving (*Him*) a deadline to remove it.** (Italics not on Character Card)

### **Application for Home and Life Skills Development:**

Children often respond to difficult situations according to their level of patience. Since most worthwhile projects involve difficulty, the more patient children become, the more they can accomplish. The “I will’s” show how patience endures difficult times and encourages making the most of every minute.

- 1. I will change the things I can change and accept the things I can't.**
- 2. I will keep trying until I succeed.**
- 3. I will make the most of my spare time.**
- 4. I will make not interrupt.**
- 5. I will not complain if I don't get my way.**

### **Scripture Memory for class:**

**Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**( James 1:2-4 ESV)

As James's readers establish themselves in their new surroundings, they have to face many trials. Poverty and persecution appear to have been the biggest trials faced by these early Christians, but James has in mind all kinds of difficulties that can pose threats to our faith in God—sickness, the death of loved ones, a rebellious child, a hated job. Whatever the trial, James commands Christians to rejoice (1:2). How is this possible? By recognizing that God can use these problems and tribulations to produce Christians who are “mature and complete” (v. 4). Trials, which test us as fire refines ore (see also 1 Pet. 1:7), lead to a more settled, stable

Christian character; and as we continue taking a Christian viewpoint on trials, this perseverance will be able to finish its work of producing strong, mature, unshakable believers.

## Accepting a Problem

Patience isn't a matter of denying or trying to hide feelings or ignoring circumstances.. Patience is a matter of accepting unchangeables that are beyond our control. The key to accepting a problem is realizing that it is more productive to change the things you can change than to get angry about the things you can't change.

## Focus On Character

Many life experiences are boring and tedious. Patience turns these into character opportunities.

Many other life experiences are frustrating and discouraging. Patience allows a person to make a rational plan of action by thinking through the situation and making a decision based on biblical ethical standards rather than on emotions. Hasty responses are often regretted in the future.

Patience in the midst of difficulty develops and strengthens character.

## The Concept of Patience

Patience implies waiting without murmuring or fretting. It also implies knowing when to act, and when to wait. Impatient people always feel compelled to act.

## Manners – Learn How to Make an Effective Appeal

1. Appeal to the right person
2. Pick the right time
3. Have the right attitudes
4. Choose the right words
5. Decide to be grateful, regardless of the decision

## Enjoying the Benefits of Patience

Consider the benefits of patience. In addition to avoiding the dangerous physical consequences of anger and depression, patience offers other benefits:

- Those with patience respond to pressure rationally, not emotionally
- Those with patience focus on lasting solutions, not “quick fixes.”
- Those with patience take the time to resolve problems before they escalate

## Seek to Praise Everyday!

Though we cannot always remove difficult situations, we can encourage children to see them from the perspective of patience.

Before you can praise patience you've got to be able to recognize it. Here are some examples, children demonstrate patience when they:

- Wait to speak without interrupting
- Don't complain about waiting for a meal
- Don't whine
- Tolerate siblings bothering them
- Wait quietly for the next turn
- Respond to difficult situations with a good attitude
- Willingly set hard-to-gain goals

Praise early – Children who fail to learn patience often become impatient adults. They whine and complain at the slightest irritation. Children who learn patience early in life benefit greatly later on.

Ways to praise

- Give your child a special privilege for a day
- Allow the child to do an important job
- Allow the child to call the other parent at home or work to say he or she has been patient

## Illustration Used in KK4C Class

Along with teaching and expanding on the above definition, the 'I wills', and scripture, patience will be illustrated using:

- **The Character Card of the Month – Patience in nature with the Monarch butterfly.** After completing its long, dramatic metamorphosis, it faces the most difficult struggle of its life – breaking out of the chrysalis. If spared from this struggle, the butterfly's wings would not unfold and it would never fly. Your child will learn in the nature story how patience equips the Monarch butterfly for this extraordinary challenge.
- **Patience in History with George Washington Carver** – “Be patient, my boy,” Aunt Mariah told young George Washington Carver. He followed her advice and never stopped asking questions. At the age of 12 George began to “learn all he could,” and even in the face of opposition, kept trying until he succeeded.

## Character Card Tips

Actions are not character unless they are part of everyday life. Use the character cards and join with us in teaching your child the 'I wills' by saying, “Here are ways you can practice **patience**.” Then read the “I wills” on the back of the card.

Then elaborate on each one from your own life sharing personal illustrations of when you did what was right or did something that was wrong. Be sure to emphasize that there were benefits to right choices and consequences to wrong choices.

To purchase Character Cards click [here](#).

## Personal Evaluation – How Patient are YOU?

1. Do you realize that all of life's situations are in God's hands?
2. Do you use waiting on others as an opportunity to learn to wait on God?

3. Do you listen when you pray?
4. Do you wait for God to answer your prayers in His timing?
5. Do you fulfill your responsibilities while waiting on the Lord or others?

## Rewards of Patience

- **MATURITY** – One measure of maturity is how long one can wait between achievement and award.
- **HOPE** – Hope is the anticipation of good things to come. It is an important ingredient to a happy life. The enjoyment of a thing is increased when one has waited a long time to receive it.

## Patience

—*the ability to bear trials without grumbling; perseverance*

### A. *Of the Trinity:*

God, the author of Rom. 15:5

Christ, the example of 2 Thess. 3:5

Spirit, the source of Gal. 5:22

### B. *Described as:*

Rewarded Rom. 2:7

Endured with joy Col. 1:11

### C. *Is a product of:*

Good heart Luke 8:15

Tribulation Rom. 5:3, 4

Testing of faith James 1:3

Hope Rom. 8:25

Scriptures Rom. 15:4

### D. *Necessary grace, in:*

Times of crises Luke 21:15–19

Dealing with a church 2 Cor. 12:12

Opposing evil Rev. 2:2

Soundness of faith Titus 2:2

Waiting for Christ's return James 5:7, 8

## Getting It Now—Or in God's Time

Many people in modern society have been raised without being taught to wait for anything. They were spoiled as children by parents and others who regularly gave in to their demands in order to stop their begging or crying. As a result, we now live in a culture that thrives on instant gratification, whether it be food, travel, fun, or achievement. We not only want everything and feel entitled to everything—we want it right now!

However, the Book of Proverbs opposes this sort of attitude when it tells us that the impatient craving of the lazy person is fatal (Prov. 21:25). Other cautions along these lines include:

- Dishonest wealth cannot compare with the benefits of gain through hard work (Prov. 13:11).
- Deferring our hopes may feel awful, but doing so leads to ultimate satisfaction that is like a healthy tree (Prov. 13:12).
- Quick fixes and fast answers are described as “folly and shame” (Prov. 18:13, 17).
- Good advice may be difficult or irritating at first, but ultimately it yields blessings (Prov. 19:20).

- Righteousness may seem to leave you far behind in this life compared to others who lie, cheat, and steal, but God’s justice in the next life will show that you have made the right choice (Prov. 23:17–18).
- Intoxication with alcohol seems satisfying at the time, but later you pay a heavy price for that brief moment of enjoyment (Prov. 23:29–35).

Delayed gratification is the road less traveled, but it offers rewards that others will never enjoy. Quite often, the quick payoff is the “way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Prov. 16:25). That’s why the New Testament urges believers to be “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer” (Rom. 12:12). Likewise, Scripture assures us that the “testing of your faith produces patience,” in order that “you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (James 1:3–4).

Have you learned to wait for good things, or do you have to have everything right now? Consider, for example, whether you are an impulsive buyer. Can you try to see past immediate jolts of pleasure to more significant, lasting benefits later? Scripture teaches us to be discerning and farsighted, separating ourselves from anything that would destroy us (Prov. 27:12).

Thomas Nelson Publishers. (2001). *What does the Bible say about-- : The ultimate A to Z resource fully illustrated*. Nelson's A to Z series (291). Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson.

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