

Wednesday in the Word Lesson 12 March 27, 2013

“Behold Your Long-suffering God”

1. Define ‘patience.’ What is **your** understanding of ‘patience’ as an attribute of God?

2. Read the following passages in context. What truths or principles are taught in these texts about long-suffering? Who is patient and who is to be patient. Note: all of these references to the attribute of ‘patience’ are translated from the Hebrew or Greek meaning ‘long-suffering’ or ‘slow to anger.’ See back of worksheet.

Exodus 34:6	Matthew 18:26, 29	11 Timothy 3:10; 4:2
Numbers 14:8	Romans 2:4; 9:22	Hebrews 6: 12, 15
Nehemiah 9:17	11 Corinthians 6:6	James 5:7, 8, 10
Psalms 86:15, 103:8, 145:8	Galatians 5:22	1 Peter 3:20
Jeremiah 15:15	Ephesians 4:2	11 Peter 3: 9, 15
Joel 2:13	Colossians 1:11; 3:12	
Jonah 4:2	1 Thessalonians 5:14	
Nahum 1:3	1 Timothy 1:16	

3. We have studied God’s judgment and wrath. What does God’s patience have to do with His judgment and wrath?

4. In light of the truths and principles about ‘long-suffering’ from the above scriptures, how can we apply these truths to **our** lives?

(over)

Long-suffering is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger and is associated with mercy. It is also translated ‘slow to anger, patient or patiently.’ It is used of God.

Exodus 34:6, Romans 2:4, 1 Peter 3:20, Psalm 145:8, Hebrews 6:15

It comes from 2 Hebrew words meaning 1. defer, draw out, patient, slow and 2. nose, face, anger hence long-suffering or slow to anger.

It comes from the Greek **makrothumia(n.)** or **makrothumeo(v.)** meaning forbearance, long-suffering, patience, to be forbearing or patient, to bear long with, to be long-suffering, to patiently endure.

Patience is the quality that does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial; it is the opposite of despondency and is associated with hope. Note: it is **not** used of God.

1 Thessalonians 1:3, Romans 5:3, Luke 8:15

It comes from the Greek **hupomone** meaning an abiding under, cheerful or hopeful, endurance, patience, continuance, patiently waiting.

The best way to determine whether the word translated ‘patient, patiently’ is ‘long-suffering’ or from the Greek word ‘hupomone,’ is to use your exhaustive concordance in order to correctly interpret and apply the verse or passage. ‘Slow to anger’ is almost always the same word as ‘long-suffering.’

Forbearance is a holding back, to bear with, endure, a delay of punishment as in God’s forbearance with men. It comes from the Greek **anochē(n.)**

Romans 2:4 A suspense of wrath which must be eventually exercised unless the sinner accepts God’s conditions.

Romans 3:25 The ground of God withholding punishment not of his forgiveness. Here it is connected with the passing over of sins in times past, previous to the atoning work of Christ.

**The above definitions are from Vine’s expository dictionary of New Testament words. **