

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Patience Is A Virtue

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**A**ndoubtedly you likely can still remember hearing your parents voice from your childhood echoing “Patience is a virtue.” From the times of our early youth when we nagged our parents asking “Are we there yet?” all the way to the days of adulthood when we must endure through some of life’s longer trials, patience is an attribute that we all struggle to attain.

Virtue is defined as “a particular moral excellence or a commendable quality or trait.” When we think about virtue our minds should automatically turn to God and His word, for it is from Him when find moral excellency that we can equip to make our life complete (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Patience is defined as “endurance, constancy, waiting, and continuance.” Patience is truly a virtue we should strive to embody.

That said, when we look to God we find the ultimate example of patience. In Romans 15:5 Paul writes concerning our God that He is “the God of patience.” This is most certainly a two-fold description: one in that God supremely possesses patience and secondly

that He is the giver of patience. The second aspect is highlighted in the New American Standard Translation of Rom. 15:5 “Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement...”

Not only does God give us patience through His word and His discipline and training, but He also applies patience with us. In 2 Peter 3:9 Peter writes that God “is patient toward you, not wishing any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” God has been gracious and merciful in His endurance and continuance with us despite our frequent shortcomings. He desires all to come to Him and has shown His continued patience for over two thousands years thus far. As to this virtue of the patience of God we should be continually grateful.

The patience of God is not to be viewed in a vacuum. Rather we note the continued exhortation that we as children of God receive that we might be patient as He is patient. In 1 Timothy 6:11 and 2 Timothy 3:10 we see that Timothy was encouraged to continue to follow after the virtue of patience and endurance. Also in Hebrews 6:12 we read that we are to be “imitators of those who through

faith and patience inherit the promises.” Also in Hebrews 10:36 we read “For ye have need of patience, so that when ye have done the will of God, ye may receive the promise.”

The exhortation to the virtue of patience is to be exemplified in two primary ways. First, we must exercise patience with our fellow man. If God is willing to be patient with us, even though we have so often failed Him, is it not then a necessary consequence that we show patience to others? If we refuse to show patience to others then how can we expect God to be patient with us? (cf. Matt. 18:23-35).

The second way we are to apply patience is found in our perseverance in hope of the Lord’s promises. Paul writes “But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it” (Rom. 8:25). We must exercise patience as we wait for the fulfillment of the Lord’s promises, whether that be our ultimate goal of heaven or His care for us in this life. May we apply the virtue of the patience of our God both to our fellow man and service to Him!