

Galatians 5:22 (NKJV)

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, and **patience**.

Patience is one of the later producing fruits. Over the years I've heard many people say that you should never pray for patience. But the problem with that school of thought is that if you never have tribulation in your life you will never be able to produce the fruit of patience. I would like to say that I have arrived. But God is still working on me by allowing tribulations to come into my everyday life to work out His fruit of patience in my life. Remember the scripture says "*within your patience YOU possess your soul.*"

Luke

Now there are primarily three avenues through which patience is produced in our lives. From temptations; troubles or tribulations, and from trials. Let's now take a brief look at each of them and see how each has there place in producing the fruit of patience in our life.

Temptation; We must thoroughly understand that it is imperative that we are patient when we are being tempted.

1 Corinthians 10:13

(NKJV) ¹³No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

God knows just how much we can bear and will never allow us to be tempted beyond that. He always gives

us the strength we need to overcome, if we will just ask. You see temptation teaches us patience. Temptation itself is not sin, only after yielding to it, does it become sin.

James 1:2-3 (NKJV) ²My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

As you progress with God and live out your lives in a godly manner you will see God free you from all kinds of temptations. Peter said that God knows how to protect us.

2 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) ⁹then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the Day of Judgment,

One reason for responding to temptation properly is that there are rewards in heaven as well as on this earth for those who overcome temptation. So whatever you do don't let temptation get the best of you and get you down.

The second medium through which the fruit of patience is produced in our lives is in time or **troubles** or **tribulations**. These are the daily grind things of life. You know things like flat tires, appliance breakdowns, car problems, difficult bosses, kids getting sick, arguing with your spouse, having more month than money. You get the picture. It is very important that during these times of testing that we maintain a positive, affirmative attitude at all

times. Israel lost out with God the times of daily life. They grumbled and complained that it was too hot, too dry, they were too hungry, too thirsty, and they didn't like the manna.

Whatever; they complained about everything in life to the point where they lost their faith in God and when He told them to take the promised land they didn't believe that they could do it. so they died in the wilderness and never tasted of the Promised Land's goodness, which represents living the victorious Christian life obtaining and walking in the **promises of God**. So even though it's hard please keep your attitude under control.

Romans 12:12 (NKJV)

¹²rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

Remember that God doesn't always deliver us from our troubles, but promises to go through them with us. In Acts 9 He told Paul who at the time was known as Saul of Tarsus; "why are you persecuting me?" At that time Saul was arresting Christians and having them put to death by order of the high council. So when we are persecuted in his life, Jesus himself is being persecuted right along with us. Displaying patience in times of trouble shows stability. And that is what God is trying to produce in us. We all need more patience;

Hebrews 10:36 (NKJV)

³⁶For you have need of endurance, (patience) so that after you have done the will for God, you may receive the promise:

In Psalms the psalmist David said that he would patiently for the Lord. (In no hurry)

Psalms 40:1 (NKJV) ¹I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry.

Finally the last is **trials**.

Patience not only tests us, but it also purifies us. It allows God to have his way in our lives as we learn total and complete dependence on Him. Trials are way more effective at teaching us than living a life that is smooth and without heartache. Many of the great discoveries in medical science and industry are failures and a result of patience.

James 1:4 (NKJV) ⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Friends God is never late. He is always on time. His time, which is always the right time.

Psalms 37:7 (NKJV) ⁷Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; One final thought; when He appears in His glory all trials will be over.