

Patient Endurance
by Rico Brown

As we are well into a new year, many times the tasks of life keep us all rushing and not exercising patience nor the desire to wait. Here are a few thoughts to consider as we all patiently endure. We must recognize that the Scriptures were given that we could learn with patience (endurance; patient continuance) and comfort to be likeminded one toward another (cf. Romans 15:4-5). We must wait (looking—Psalm 69:6) patiently (wait carefully—Psalm 37:7) for the Lord to help us, and we are assured He will hear and turn to us (cf. Psalm 40:1). Patience (longsuffering; forbearance) is one of the fruits of the Spirit as we read in Galatians 5:22-23. It will be produced in our life as we allow the Word to work in our life. We realize that love is patient (suffers long; bears long, as a burden; have long patience; patiently endure) according to 1 Corinthians 13:4. Therefore, true hope, faith, and God's love for us produces love for others, and thereby, patience (cf. 1 John 3:18-19; 4:7-13; 1 Corinthians 13:13). We have not seen our final hope, but as Romans 8:25 helps us to know that, then with patience (endurance; patient continuance) we do wait for it. Our endurance and patience are strengthened by God's glorious power through His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering (patience), forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2-3). We can have confidence in our patient continuance in doing the will of God. For, just as farmers waiting for the harvest, we patiently endure in this life waiting for the coming of the Lord (cf. James 5:7; Galatians 6:9). Paul used the Thessalonians as an example to the other churches because of their patience (endurance) in persecution and tribulations. Why? Because they received the Word not as the word of men, but as it is in Truth, the Word of God (cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16). As servants of God, the Scripture instructs us that we must teach others truth with gentleness, meekness, patience, and not strive (being quarrelsome). We must be willing to take patiently suffering wrongfully when we are innocent. Why? Because Christ did, and we are following His example (cf. 1 Peter 2:18-25). Isaiah 30:18 and 1 Corinthians 10:13 allows us to be assured in knowing that blessed are all those that wait on the Lord's help, knowing that the Lord is faithful. Sometimes we are not patient because we truly do not understand how God works. Paul says we ought to be "Rejoicing in hope; patient (forbearing) in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer" (cf. Romans 12:12), and then we'll be in a position or state to "Wait on the Lord and keep His way" (cf. Psalm 37:34). We all must keep going forward with hope in the Lord. Problems (trials) cause us to develop patience (endurance), and knowing we are approved before God strengthens our hope. We must "Look up!" and wait on the Lord and be of good courage, and know He shall strengthen our hearts. Courage takes patience, for "Better is the end of a thing that the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Be not hasty in the spirit to be angry: for anger rests in the bosom of fools" (cf. Ecclesiastes 7:8-9). We are charged to "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil" (cf. Ephesians 4:26-27). Let us all holistically exercise patience toward ALL!