

Patience in a Busy Life

Most of us are busy from morning to bedtime with our daily activities related to church, family, children, work, school, and recreation. We feel pressure to be model parents, good neighbors, and loyal employees while faithfully serving God. Life in the “fast lane” can sometimes result in losing focus on spiritual things and acting inappropriately toward brethren and others with whom we come into contact. A good place to begin to look for guidance is in Romans chapter 12.

We are admonished to be patient (Romans 12:12). Be patient with yourself. The advice Paul gives Timothy in I Timothy 6:11 – to “pursue patience” — suggests that being patient does not come easily and requires effort to develop. In the parable of the sower, Matthew and Mark stress the “yield” which comes from seed which falls on good soil (people with noble and good hearts). Luke, however, emphasizes a different point: patience. He says we must keep the word and *patiently bear fruit* (Luke 8:15).

Be patient with our brethren. The apostle Paul also urged the brethren in Rome to develop patience. In Romans 15:5, he writes, *And may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one-another, according to Christ Jesus*. Some in the congregation, our brothers and sisters in Christ, may not have the same level of commitment and zeal that you have. Still, be patient with them.

In summary, our walk with God is not a sprint. Changes in our lives are to be expected but we must not lose sight of our goal to live faithfully until the end. James sums up this advice best: *But let patience have its perfect work* (the ESV reads *full effect*), *that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing* (James 1:4).

For the elders,
Don Denton