

PATIENCE

2 PETER 1

Text: 2 Peter 1:6

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⁶And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

Introduction:

Notice in verse 6 that we are told to add to our faith, "patience."

The word "patience" refers to one steadfastly enduring in faith, not surrendering to circumstances.

Let's look again at the progression that Peter presents us with.

Peter says that we must have a desire to do what is right. We must have a knowledge of what is right. We need the discipline to do what is right. And then we need Spiritual endurance, so we will keep doing what is right when we are challenged or opposed.

Why do we need spiritual endurance?

Because:

1. CHRISTIANS ARE NOT SHIELDED FROM DIFFICULTY

Some believe that if they will become a Christian all of their problems will go away. That is just not the truth.

The recipients of this letter were certainly facing difficulty and they needed to be encouraged to remain steadfast and faithful to the Lord.

Nero, a madman was in power in Rome. He was so deranged that he killed his first three wives as well as his own mother for fear of losing his political power.

Under his insanity, the flames of persecution were ignited against the church.

Such persecution brought enormous pressure upon the first century believers to surrender their loyalty to Christ to the opposition.

Peter too, knew what difficulty was. In Acts we learn of how he was imprisoned for boldly preaching the gospel of Jesus.

Illustrations of People who endured difficulty:

Joseph (Hated, Sold, Lied About, Imprisoned)

Three Hebrew Boys (Fiery Furnace)

Daniel (Lion's Den)

David (Ran from Saul, Absalom tried to take his kingship)

John the Baptist (Had his head cut off for the truth)

Stephen (Was stoned to death for preaching)

Paul (Was imprisoned, stoned, ship wrecked)

The Lord (The cross)

Hebrews 12:1-3

¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

We too will face difficulty. James refers to them as trials. (James 1:2-3)

James 1:2-3

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

They come in various forms, but they come. That's one reason we need to maintain spiritual endurance.

2. CHRISTIANS ARE NOT SHIELDED FROM DEFEAT

In the scriptures we learn not only of the victories of many saints of God, but we also learn about some of the defeats of those who followed the Lord.

James told us not only of the battles we will have with trials, but he also told us about the battles we would have with temptation.

James 1:12

¹² Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

He takes spiritual endurance to press on even when we fail the Lord.

We need to have the attitude of one little boy I heard about. This little boy begged his tired dad to go out in the yard with him so his dad could see him hit the baseball. His dad finally agreed.

The little boy said, "Watch me dad, watch me hit the ball."

So with one hand the little boy tossed the ball into the air and with all of his might he took a swing at the ball and missed it. "Strike one", the little boy said.

He took the ball again and tossed into the air. Again he took a powerful swing only to miss.

This time he said, "strike two."

Not giving up the little guy picked up the ball the third time and said, "Watch me dad." He took the ball, tossed it into the air, and with all the concentration he could muster, he took his third swing and missed the ball again. "Strike three," he said.

The father's heart sank. But before he could even get a word of encouragement out of his mouth, his son with a grin on his face said, "I'm a pretty good pitcher, aren't I."

I like that boy's attitude. He wasn't about to wallow in his defeat, and neither should we.

Now I am not trying to minimize the seriousness of our sins. What I want you to learn is that when we fail, we need to watch that we don't give up.

We need to endure by following God's word.

1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The condition is clear... confess. The promise is clear... God will forgive.

We need spiritual endurance because we are not shielded from difficulties, we are not shielded from defeat, and then finally....

3. CHRISTIANS ARE NOT SHIELDED FROM DISCOURAGEMENT

One of Satan's most effect weapons against us is discouragement.

The scriptures warn of us becoming weary in well doing.

Galatians 6:9

⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Timothy, Paul's son in the faith, almost succumbed to discouragement.

In the first chapter of 1 Timothy, Paul encourages Timothy to remain faithful and fulfill that which he had been placed there to do.

1 Timothy 1:1-7

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, *which is* our hope; ² Unto Timothy, *my own son in the faith*: Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. ³ As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, ⁴ Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: *so do*. ⁵ Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and *of* a good conscience, and *of* faith unfeigned: ⁶ From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; ⁷ Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

1 Timothy 1:18-20

¹⁸ This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; ¹⁹ Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: ²⁰ Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Later in 2 Timothy Paul tells Timothy to "endure" as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:3

³ Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Paul reminds him to remain faithful. (2 Tim. 4:1-5)

2 Timothy 4:1-5

¹ I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. ⁵ But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

People will let you down, and disappoint you. That is why again that we must keep our eyes on the Lord.

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

How do we add temperance patience?

- By trusting God in times of Difficulty.
- By confessing our sins in times of Defeat.
- By looking unto Jesus in times of Discouragement.