

# Cultivating Patience

Lesson for Sunday, September 7, 2025

Teacher Note: Start each week with a review of the verses we are trying to memorize!

## INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Question: What does it take to make you stop doing the right thing?
  - Note: This is not a discussion question! This is designed to make them think.
- ⇒ Chuck Colson was originally known as President Nixon's "hatchet man" and was deeply involved in the Watergate scandal that led ultimately to Nixon's resignation and prison time for Colson.
  - Colson rose quickly in politics and was known for his aggressive tactics and unwavering loyalty to the president.
  - He later described the political environment as highly competitive and admitted that he was caught up in a culture where achieving victory often overshadowed ethical considerations.
  - That culture contributed to risky actions that eventually became criminal.
  - Bottom line: The administration was willing to compromise their ethics and morality in order to stay in power.
- ⇒ What is easy to see in the Nixon administration is often nearly impossible to see in the mirror. What does it take for you to stop doing the right thing?
- ⇒ To remain loyal to Christ and to avoid compromise requires patience, or endurance.

## CONTEXT:

- ⇒ Peter was writing to a group of believers that had started out right but were now being sidetracked by the appeals of an immoral culture that surrounded them.
- ⇒ Outright persecution was not so much a threat as were the pressures of moral degradation. Peter wanted them to finish well.
- ⇒ His formula, presented in verses 5-7, began with a resolve to pursue Christlikeness. They would need to deepen their knowledge of Christ and to develop the self-control to keep them from being sidetracked.
- ⇒ Furthermore, they would need real endurance (patience). That is our topic today. Read 2 Peter 1:5-6.

## BIBLE STUDY:

1. Patience Exemplified (Hebrews 11)
  - a. Hebrews 11 is referred to as the Hall of Faith for Christians. It catalogs the many Bible heroes who kept their eyes on the Lord during times of extreme adversity and successfully persevered under trial.
  - b. Read verses 33-38 to get an idea...
  - c. In verse 27 we read about Moses who captures this idea of endurance for us. Read the verse and emphasize the phrase, "for he endured."
    - i. (If you need to, rehearse briefly Moses's confrontation with Pharaoh.)
    - ii. Point out "as seeing Him Who is invisible." Where was Moses focused? On the problem or on the Lord?
  - d. Endurance is the ability to remain faithful to God under pressure because your heart looks continually to God in faith for strength and reward.
2. Patience Explained (2 Peter 1:6)

- a. The word that Peter uses is defined “to remain under.”
  - b. In other usages, it communicates courageous endurance that fully defies evil. It is active rather than passive.
  - c. The word refers to a courageous and steadfast endurance in the face of suffering or evil.
  - d. There is often an ethical issue at stake with the use of this word.
    - i. In the Bible, the focus is maintaining a response that glorifies God no matter what the external pressures.
    - ii. Those pressures could include physical issues, natural affliction, poverty, pressure from family or friends, or pressures from the external culture.
  - e. What is the secret ingredient for developing this kind of patience/endurance? Just like Moses, we must keep our eyes focused on the Lord. He will have the final word, and He will provide what we need to persevere.
3. Patience Exhibited
- a. Remember that we cannot separate one essential virtue from the rest that are included in the text.
  - b. Cultivating patience begins when we agree with God that our purpose on the earth is to display the excellencies of Jesus Christ.
  - c. Next, we must cultivate knowledge by studying the Person, works and ways of Christ to discover what He is like and how we are to live.
  - d. Self-control (temperance) is the foundation for patience/endurance. A person cannot say no to the pressures outside himself until he can say no to the pressures that come from within.
  - e. Cultivating endurance takes time. It is the result of day after day of commitment to Christ followed by daily surrenders to Him as each new challenge and temptation comes our way.

#### APPLICATION:

- ⇒ We are back to where we started, “What does it take to make you stop doing the right thing?” Consider these examples...
  - Do I stop being kind when another person offends me?
  - Do I stop being obedient just because I don’t agree with the policy?
  - Do I stop seeking the Lord daily because my schedule fills up?
  - Do I stop telling the truth because it may make my life more difficult?
  - Do I stop sacrificing for others when they don’t seem to appreciate it?
  - Do I stop depending on the promises of God and become discouraged because my circumstances don’t seem to be working out?
  - Do I stop working hard when there is no one present to see what I am doing?
- ⇒ Every character quality is only as good as its endurance under pressure.
- ⇒ Where do you need to go to work?