



The Myth: God is impatient with us.

Truth: God is both patient and understanding.

Listen! What not to do when your wife is late in getting ready for a dinner party.

Suppose: A child is struggling with algebra.

- **What if?** What if God is impatient with us?

The Myth: God is impatient with us.

The Truth: God is patient with us.

- Dispelling the myth—please listen to this syllogism:
 - God is love. 1 John 4:19
 - Love is patient. 1 Corinthians 13:4
 - God is patient. A perfect God would have to embody 1 Cor 13 perfectly.
 - 2 Peter 3:9. “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”
- Understanding Patience in the New Testament—three central meanings:
 - Long suffering primarily toward people:
 - Enduring difficult circumstances without complaint or agitation:
 - Tolerant of evil people and situations in the sense of bearing up while this evil goes on out of their control but not in the sense of condoning it:
- The goals of God’s Patience:
 - **Not** to condone my continual sin, immaturity, and self-absorbed living.
 - For me to grow in my resemblance of Jesus Christ.
 - For me to cultivate an inner adoration for God as He exists.
 - For me to grow in my ability to relate to others with love, grace, and truth.
 - For me to grow in my ministry motivation and skill.
 - For people to come to faith in Christ.
- **The Idea:** God is amazingly patient toward us...waiting and expecting us to trust Him, pursue Him, obey Him, and serve Him.

So what does this mean in our relationship with God?

So what does this mean in relationships with others? The obvious answer is that we must cultivate patience toward others.

- **Reaching**—how we relate to unbelievers:
- **Coaching**—how we relate to believers:

Final Application: Is there some way in which you have been abusing the patience of God and need to turn from something? _____



“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

The Core Myth: “God is impatient with us—ready to scream, ‘Why don’t you get it?’”

The Truth: God is amazingly patient toward us...waiting and expecting for us to trust Him, pursue Him, obey Him, and serve Him.

- **Sunday:** Is there some way in which you have been abusing the patience of God and need to turn from something? _____
- **Monday:** Is there some way in which you are not imitating God in His patience in relationships with your family? Will you confess it to God and to them?
- **Tuesday:** Take some reflection time to make an honest assessment of your gratitude quotient toward God for His patience and all His goodness.
- **Wednesday:** Do you need God’s help with longsuffering toward a particular person? Take some time to ask Him for this help and for His work in the person.
- **Thursday:** Do you need God’s help with endurance in a difficult situation?
- **Friday:** Do you need God’s help in weathering an evil situation that you cannot control?
- **Saturday:** Do you think the goals of God’s patience are happening in your life?

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.