

Faith that Works: Living Out of Your Beliefs

Enduring and Expecting: Faith's Patience and Promise

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for this day and being our provider and protector on earth.

Guide us while we live under God grace

I pray that God will go where he left off and continue to use me in Detroit while I may my transition back to Detroit because I will not be returning to Kentucky any more in the future.

Thank you for not living in Bondage and temptation

Thank you for the food we eat on daily basis to avoid hunger and food insecurity

Thank you for guiding us from mammon and greed to make our life all about money.

Guard our hearts and minds while we live under your grace

Guard our hearts and minds from sins, idolatry, abomination and temptation

I pray that those people are envious and jealous of people that have more accomplishments and goals to achieve in their life.

Guide and give those people hope to set goals for their life and stop hating and being envious towards others.

In Jesus name, Amen

1. What is the longest you have ever had to wait for something you really wanted?
2. Can you think of a time when patience paid off in a big way?
3. What are some things that test your patience the most?
4. How do you personally practice patience in your daily life?
5. What bible stories or figures come to mind when you think about patience?
6. Have you ever mistaken patience for inaction, and what you learn from that?
7. What is one thing you wish you had more patience for?
8. How does faith play a role in your ability to be patient?
9. In what areas of your life do you struggle with patience the most?
10. How has waiting on God's timing worked out for you in the past?

"Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned."-James 5:7-12

When I read and think about this scripture, I think about the importance of being patient with God during our trials, tribulations and sufferings. We must not rush God while we are suffering. We need to be patient and let God work to resolve our suffering. We must be patient with God and have strong faith in God as the rock of our salvation and personal savior. We must understand that God is testing us during our trials, tribulations and sufferings. God is trying to draw you to him so you can end the pain in your life. James is talking to believers about patience and perseverance in the face of suffering and injustice.

The scripture talks about patience and enduring hardship and injustice. The scripture talks about the meaning of patience enduring hardship and injustice with steadfastness and hope. The scripture talks about trusting in God's timing and justice rather than seeking immediate relief or retribution. We need to maintain a calm and hopeful attitude while waiting on the Lord's return and ultimate resolution of all things. James talks about the importance of patience, perseverance and integrity in the face of suffering and waiting on the Lord's return. It encourages believers to remain steadfast, avoid grumbling, and maintain honesty in their words using the example of prophets and Job to illustrate these virtues. The events in the scripture took place during the early period of the christian church. Jewish Christian were scattered during the Roman Empire. In the scripture, James wanted believers to be patient with God in the face of suffering and be honest in their speech. Ways we can cultivate patience is to pay attention to your thoughts and feelings in the present moment without judgement. This can help you become more aware of your triggers and reactions. We try to see situations from different perspectives. This can help you understand why things are happening the way they are and reduce your frustration. We need to avoid setting unrealistic expectations for ourselves and others. This can help you avoid disappointment and frustration when things don't go as planned. We need to focus on things that we are grateful for in our life. This can help you appreciate what you have and reduce your desire for instant gratification. When you feel yourself getting impatient, you can take a few deep breaths to calm yourself down. This can help you relax and think more clearly. We need to pay attention to what others are saying without interrupting or formulating your response. This can help you understand their perspective and reduce your frustration. We need to engage in activities that we enjoy to take your mind off things. This will help you avoid dwelling on things that are making you impatient. We need to understand that life is full of uncertainty and you cannot control everything. This can help you let go of your need for control and be more patient with the unknown. We should talk to a trusted friend, family member or therapist about your struggles with patience. This can help you gain insights and develop coping strategies. We should be kind and compassionate with ourselves when we make mistakes or fall short of our goals. This can help you avoid self-criticism and stay motivated to improve. Patience and action might seem opposites, but they work together very well. Patience helps you stay calm and focused while action helps you move forward and make progress. Too much action without patience can lead to mistakes and burnout. You may rush into things without thinking them through, or get frustrated when things don't happen as quickly as you want. On the other hand, too much patience without action can lead to stagnation. You might wait for the perfect moment or opportunity, but never actually the steps you need to reach your goals. The key is to find balance between the two. You can use patience to stay grounded and make thoughtful decisions, but don't let it hold you back from taking action when it is needed. You can make steady progress towards your goals without getting overwhelmed or discouraged.

"Waiting for God's timing can feel like waiting for dial-up internet to load a video. You know it's coming eventually but you might as well go make a sandwich in the meantime."

- When we believe in God, timing means trusting in God has a plan for your life and things will happen at the right time even if you don't understand why they happen the way they are. It is about having faith that God is working behind the scenes and that he will bring about good things in your life even when things seem difficult or uncertain. Community plays a vital role in our lives by providing support, connection and a sense of belonging. It offers opportunities for personal growth, shared experiences, and mutual assistance to enhance overall well-being and resilience.

How do we need to apply the scripture to our life?

1. Practice patience during difficulties and tough times.
2. Remain steadfast with faith in God daily
3. Avoid complaining
4. Maintain honesty and truth in your words
5. Trust in God timing and promises
6. Look to the example of prophets and Job for guidance.

People in the world do not have patience when they are suffering and dealing with their tribulations. People that do not want to be patient and wait on God for any blessings and breakthrough rather go to the sinful world for help. My advice about young people in Chicago and these Democratic cities rather hustle people on a daily basis to try to get money out of working people. That's why older generations like myself say that young people are lost spiritually and need to find themselves. Young people rather live by 1 John 2:15-17 to love the world than loving God as their personal savior and rock of their salvation. Young people need to believe in God's timing and have patience. Young people and sinners need to end their own personal and sinful desires. Sinners and young people need to recall and meditate on God's promises of comfort, provision and deliverance. Sinners and young people need to start praying for God to provide you with wisdom and understand God's point of view. Do not go to a sinner in the world to give you wisdom and cause you to lean on your own understanding. Young people and sinners need to keep their eye on eternal life and living under God's grace. Whoever has patience on God to receive his blessings and breakthroughs are rewarded from heaven. I want to say I truthly got rewarded from heaven a lot because I am patient under his grace and mercy. We need to study the lives of bible figures like Job and prophets that endured suffering. Young people and sinners need to cultivate an attitude with gratitude during your times of suffering and acknowledging God's blessings. We need to start following ourselves with believers and that is why in the past sermons we need to do what Jesus did and recruit our twelve disciples. This will help surround us around the right people. That's why I like Star of Hope Mission in Houston better because I felt like being surrounded with the right people. I felt like in Houston at the Star of Hope that I was surrounded with the right people that were spiritual 24/7. I did not get that type of surroundings at other shelters because other men at the other shelters are sinners, live in temptation and bondage, live by the flesh, gossip about others and think they know everything about people. I have 57 disciples now and started out at 12 disciples in 2011. You need to be surrounded by the right spiritual and Christian people to hold you accountable for your sins, bondage, temptation, abomination and idolatry. Sinners and young people need to find comfort and assurance in God's unconditional love. We need to believe God is working on all things for good.

How young people and sinners need to strengthen their faith in God?

1. Read and meditate on the bible daily
2. Communicate with God through prayer expressing your needs and seeking guidance.
3. Connect with other Christians for encouragement, support and accountability. That's why I wanted to come back to Detroit and settle there because people in Louisville did not want to reach out to me. All I got for people in Louisville was stuck up attitudes from people. Only people who were friendly to me in Louisville were Christians and churchgoing people that work or volunteer at places like soup kitchens. Security guards at the downtown Louisville public library were stuck up and did not want to greet and speak to me. They avoided and gossip about me the

whole time and rather be friends with bum homeless people that come in the library and do nothing but talk really loud and play music or youtube really loud off their phones acting disrespectful for people around them.

4. Engage in acts of service and love to put your faith into action and experience God's patience. I do this by giving to the homeless and poor, volunteering at homeless shelters in Detroit. I do this because I am not a taker for the world. I am a cheerful giver to God. '
5. Believe in God's faithfulness and rely on his promises even during tough and difficult times.
6. Ask for wisdom and discernment from God to make choices that align with his will.
7. Reflect on past experiences where God has shown his faithfulness and provision.
8. Cultivate an attitude of gratitude recognizing and thanking God for his blessings
9. Take risks and step out of your comfort zone to trust God will guide and protect you.
10. Endure trials and challenges with patience and perseverance knowing God is refining your faith.

As Christians and disciples, we need to pay attention to the needs of people around us and look for ways to help. I understand when I see people in public homeless around me and I want to help them, but many times I never have the cash on me handy to help them. I love to run errands for people and listen to others. I like being kind to others, but not too friendly because I learned at Star of Hope Mission in Houston not to let people take advantage of my kindness. I like to be generous and give to the poor and homeless, but my case manager at Star of Hope Mission told me that I need to balance my giving more often, so I can stop using helping others more as a trait and start caring for myself more. When I give my money and possessions to the homeless and poor, I end up struggling financially and economically like I witnessed for myself in the past.

Just as the farmers wait for their crops to grow, we must wait for spiritual growth and trust God is working in our lives even when we do not see immediate results. Farmers tend their crops by watering, weeding and fertilizing. We must nurture our spiritual lives through prayer, study and fellowship. Farmers face weather, pests and other challenges. We face trials and temptation in our Christian journey. We must hold on to our perseverance and faith in God. Farmers trust in natural processes of growth. We must trust in God's plan for our lives even if we don't understand it. Farmers patiently work towards a harvest. We strive for a harvest of righteousness, peace and joy through our relationship with God. Abraham's story is a powerful example waiting on God's promise. God promised Abraham that he would be a better father of many nations, although his wife Sarah was old and childless. Abraham and Sarah grew older years later. Doubt began to creep in. Sarah was starting to lose hope and suggest that Abraham have a child with her servant Hagar. Abraham agreed with Sarah and that when Ismael was born. God clarified that Ishmael was not a promised heir. Abraham remained faithful after years of waiting and setbacks. When Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90, God fulfilled his promise and Isaac was born. Abraham's unwavering faith in God's promise even in the face of seemingly impossible circumstances, demonstrates the essence of faith, patience and eventual fulfillment of God's promises. We need to learn from the story of Abraham by understanding faith in God requires trust. God's timing is not always your own because waiting requires endurance, following God commands even good and difficult times, God is faithful, and doubt can rise. Following God's commands can lead to blessings.

You do not want to be like Sarah in the story of Abraham to fulfill your goal with someone else or depend on sin to achieve a goal. Whatever goal that you set for yourself in your life, you want to have the patience and faith in God to help you achieve that goal. It may take some time to achieve that goal.

That's why it got me thinking about what was told to me at Star of Hope Mission in Houston is stop thinking too fast and take my time in achieving my goals. It is told to me at the time that I need to let God work in me to help me achieve goals and accomplishments. You can be in a homelessness situation or a bad economic hardship situation at the time, but you want to have faith in God to achieve goals for yourself. You could be in a homeless shelter or homelessness situation for a long and short period, but God is trying to work with you to help you achieve a goal. You have to just be patient with him. There is no need to have mental health or anger issues in a homelessness situation. It is God working for you to help you achieve that goal. It is God that can give you that house, apartment or that particular lifestyle. It is not doing it through sin, bondage, temptation, abomination and idolatry. Tell the person next to you and say do not rush, let God work for you. If you, like me, years ago wanted to get off SSI income and receive job income like everyone else, it is God trying to work for me to fulfill his promise. If you are like me that want to get off SSI income and start receiving a salary and wage like other working people, it is God working me in to fulfill that promise for me to get me off SSI income and start receiving a salary to be able to improve my finances to pay bills, living expenses, pay for housing on my own without SSI income, food, healthcare, student loan debt, pay off debts. If you want to have a wife and children as a goal, do not be like Sarah in the story of Abraham and have a child with someone else out of wedlock. You want to have patience with God because God will help you find a spouse to have children. Do not give up and sin by committing adultery. What goal you make with God to help you achieve, Christ Jesus will help you with that promise. Turn to the person next to you and say have faith in God. and let him fulfill your promises. I was thinking why I had a difficult time all this time getting off SSI income into job income from the church because I was thinking God may not be ready to take me off SSI income year and let me start receiving a salary from the church. I was thinking it may be a little longer when I achieve my goal from God to get me from SSI income to job salary and compensation package from the church. I realized a long time ago that I have to continue to have patience with God to achieve that goal.

Joseph's story is a compelling example of faith, patience and the fulfillment of God's promises amidst adversity. Joseph was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. Joseph was taken to Egypt. He maintained his integrity and worked diligently in Potiphar's house. He eventually rose to a position of authority. He was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and thrown in prison. Joseph's character is shown through while in prison and he gains the trust of the jailer. He interpreted dreams for his fellow prisoners, including Pharaoh's cupbearer. When Pharaoh had troubled dreams, the cupbearer remembered Joseph and recommended him. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams that predicted seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine. Pharaoh appointed Joseph as governor of Egypt. Joseph's brother came to Egypt during famine seeking food, bowing before the brother that they betrayed years earlier. Joseph tested him to ensure their repentance and reconciliation. Joseph revealed his identity, forgave him, and provided for his entire family. Joseph's journey is marked by betrayal, false accusations and imprisonment, especially led by exaltation and his evaluation. We should strive to maintain our integrity and moral character when faced with difficult circumstances and temptations. Joseph's success in Potiphar's house and in prison was due to his diligence and commitment to excellence in whatever tasks he was given. We should approach our work with the same dedication. Joseph trusted in God's plan for his life even when he could not see the bigger picture. We can trust that God is working behind the scenes even when we face challenges and setbacks. Joseph forgave his brother for their betrayal, demonstrating the power of forgiveness to heal wounds and restore relationships. We should strive to forgive those who have wronged us, letting go of bitterness and resentment. Joseph used his gift of

interpreting dreams to serve others and ultimately rise to a position of influence. We should identify our unique gifts and talents and use them to make a positive impact on the world around us.

David's story is a powerful illustration of waiting on God's timing and promises. After being anointed by Samuel as the future king of Israel, David did not immediately ascend to the throne. He returned to his duties as shepherd. Later, David gained recognition for his courage when he defeated Goliath, becoming a celebrated hero in Israel. His victory aroused the jealousy of King Saul, who saw David as a threat to the throne. David was forced to live as a fugitive for years, fleeing from Saul's relentless pursuit. David refused to raise his hand against the Lord who anointed him, trusting the Lord to fulfill his promise in his own time. David did not become king over all Israel until after Saul's death. He initially ruled over the tribe of Judah. It wasn't until years later, after a period of political instability and civil war, that David was finally recognized as king over all Israel. David's journey to the throne was marked by trials, patience, and unwavering faith in God's promise. It demonstrates the importance of trusting God's timing and plan, even when the path is long and difficult. We can confront our fears and challenges with courage, knowing that God is with us. David remained faithful to God during difficult times. We can cultivate a deeper relationship with God through prayer, study, and obedience to his word. David acknowledged God's hand in his success and remained humble as king. We can cultivate humility by recognizing our dependence on God and serving others. David waited patiently for God's timing when it seemed like a dream of becoming king would never come true. We can learn to trust in God's timing and be patient. When we do not understand his plan, David sought God's guidance in all his decisions. We can seek God's guidance through prayer, studying the Bible, and seeking wise counsel.

Ways we need to stop grumbling and complaining about others in our daily life?

1. Focus on solutions, not problems. What I think you should do is brainstorm solutions, reframe the problems, determine the resources available to help implement solutions, generate a list of possible solutions, prioritize actions, start implementing the chosen solutions, regularly assess progress and adjust approach as needed, acknowledge and celebrate milestones to maintain momentum, view setbacks as learning opportunities to refine future solutions, maintain a positive attitude and believe in the possibility of finding solutions, work with others to leverage diverse perspectives and expertise.
2. Communicating with those people involved. Be honest, be clear and concise, listen actively, choose the right medium, be respectful, provide context, encourage feedback, be empathetic, follow-up, stay calm, and be transparent.
3. Challenging negative thoughts. Realize when you are having negative thoughts and write them down, ask yourself if it is actual evidence to support the negative thought, question whether your assumptions are based on facts or feelings, think about other possible reasons for the situation, rephrase the negative thought in a more positive or neutral way, counteract negative thoughts with positive statements about yourself and the situations, focus on the present moment to reduce the impact of negative thoughts, talk to a trusted friend, family member or therapist, do things that make you feel good and distract you from your negative thoughts.
4. Practice empathy and understanding. Listen actively, ask others to share their thoughts and feelings, try to put yourself in their shoes and understand their point of view, acknowledge and accept their emotions without judgement, express genuine concern and support their well-being, do not jump to conclusions, give them full attention and avoid distractions, recognize

and challenge your own prejudices and stereotypes, acknowledge that you don't have all the answers and open to learning from others, engage from people with different backgrounds and cultures to broaden your understanding.

5. Setting realistic expectations. Evaluate your available time, energy and skills; identify what you want to achieve and why, divide larger goals into smaller goals in measurable steps, focus on the most important tasks first, acknowledge your limitations and avoid overcommitment, reflect on previous successes and failures to inform expectations, ask others for prospective and advice, adjust your expectations as needed based on changing circumstances, establish realistic timeline for completing tasks, and acknowledge and reward yourself achieve milestones.
6. Taking breaks and managing stress, plan breaks throughout the day to avoid burnout, engage in reading and listening to music.
7. surround ourselves with positive influences. Seek out individuals who are supportive, encouraging and optimistic; make an effort to connect with these people regularly; reduce contact with people who are critical, judgemental or draining; protect your energy by setting limits on how much negativity you are willing to tolerate, participate in groups or organizations that align with your values and interests, seek out positive media; surround yourself with things that will make you happy, focus on positive aspects of your life and express appreciation for what you have; challenge negative self talk and replace it with positive affirmations, Be a positive influence for others by offering support, encouragement and kindness.
8. Celebrate small victories.