

6: Patient Endurance (2 Peter 1:6)

Second Peter 1:6b says, "Self-control leads to patient endurance, and patient endurance leads to godliness."

Read Psalm 69:1-36.

"You cannot persevere unless there is a trial in your life. There can be no victories without battles; there can be no peaks without valleys."¹ Romans 5:3 says, "We too can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to endure."

Read James 5:7-11. It is hard to find a better example of patient endurance than in the book of Job. Faced with overwhelming circumstances, Job remained faithful to God. In Job 2:10 he declares, "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" The text goes on to say, "In all this Job did not sin with his lips" (NKJV).

Isaiah 45:7b says, "I am the one who sends good times and bad times. I, the Lord, am the one who does these things." Why do you believe God allows trials and suffering in the lives of the righteous?

Read Job 1:1-2:13. Can you relate to his sufferings?

- Job suffered the loss of his livelihood and servants. (Loss of a job or co-worker)
- Job suffered the loss of his children. (Loss of family)
- Job's health was taken from him. (Sickness)
- Job suffered persecution from his wife. (Unbelieving spouse or family)
- Job suffered false accusations from his closest friends.

Feelings of despair, sadness, and misery can easily overtake you amidst your troubles. In Chapter 3, Job shares the depth of his sorrows. Why do we lose hope, forgetting God's faithfulness during these times? _____

Perseverance

The Greek word *hupomone*, or patient endurance, listed in 2 Peter 1:6 is defined as steadfastness, constancy, and perseverance. It is remaining dedicated to God, without yielding, during the greatest

¹ Wiersbe, Warren W., The Bible Exposition Commentary/ New Testament, Volume 2. Colorado Springs, Colorado: Cook Communications Ministries, 2001, c1989. 379.

trials and sufferings of your life. It is forbearance (patience, self-control) in spite of circumstance, opposition, and discouragement. How did Satan predict Job would react to the removal of God's blessings? _____

How did Job react? How would you react? _____

Would you look at your circumstances differently if you knew what was going on behind-the-scenes? _____

Job didn't know, and yet in 13:15 he says, *"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him"* (NKJV).

Knowing God's purpose amidst trials allows you to face them with confidence. List the traits produced as you patiently endure trials.

- Romans 8:28-29 _____
- 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 _____
- James 1:2-4 _____
- 1 Peter 1:6-9 _____
- 1 Peter 4:12-19 _____

Can you see the hand of God working all things together for your good and His glory? If not, are you willing to wait? _____

Job 1:21 says, *"I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be stripped of everything when I die. The Lord gave me everything I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord."*

Be Still

Psalm 46:10 says, *"Be still, and know that I am God."* How does this verse reassure you? _____

Read Isaiah 40:27-31.

Isaiah 43:2-3a says, *"When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord your God..."*

Job 23:10 says, *"But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold"* (NKJV).

In closing, Ecclesiastes 7:8a says, *"The end of a thing is better than the beginning"* (NKJV).