

The Virtue of Patience  
The Good Life: Fruitful Christian  
Living, part six  
Pastor Craig Ferguson

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. *Galatians*  
5:22-23 (NIV)

What is patience?

1. Patience is being slow to anger in relating to others

And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

*1 Thessalonians*

5:14 (NIV)

Love is patient and kind. *1 Corinthians 13:4*  
(NLT)

2. Patience is constancy under pressure

Let this encourage God's people to endure patiently every trial and persecution, for they are his saints who remain firm to the end in obedience to his commands and trust in Jesus."

*Revelation 14:12 (LB)*

Finishing is better than starting. Patience is better than pride.

*Ecclesiastes 7:8*

(NLT)

How is our patience strengthened?

1. Our patience is strengthened through difficulty

Then Moses went back to the Lord and protested, 'Why have you brought all this trouble on your own people, Lord? Why did you send me? Ever since I came to Pharaoh as your spokesman, he has been even more brutal to your people. And you have done nothing to rescue them!' *Exodus*  
5:22-23 (NLT)

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.  
*James 1:4 (NIV)*

2. Our patience is strengthened through waiting

The Lord is wonderfully good to those who wait for him, to those who seek for him. It is good both to hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. *Lamentations 3:25 (LB)*

Don't be impatient. Wait for the Lord, and he will come and save you! Be brave, stouthearted, and courageous. Yes, wait and he will help you.  
*Psalms 27:14 (LB)*

3. Our patience is strengthened through God's example

But you, O Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

*Psalms 86:15 (NLT)*

The Lord is not slow in doing what he promised—the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost, but he wants all people to change their

hearts and lives.

*2 Peter 3:9*

(NCV)

He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

*1 Peter 2:23 (NLT)*

#### 4. Our patience is strengthened through the Holy Spirit

God will strengthen you with his own great power so that you will not give up when troubles come, but you will be patient.

*Colossians 1:11*

(NCV)