

Romans 15:4 (b) & 5 (NLT) - And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled. 5 May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus.

A couple of broad, "exterior" notes:

- Invest your efforts into knowing what God has said/promised
- Re-visit as often as your faith needs
- Loosely hold timeframes

A couple of focused, "interior" notes:

Nurturing the divine link between

- Patience and Hope
Zechariah 9:12 (a) (NLT): Come back to the place of safety, all you prisoners who still have hope!
- Patience and Trust
Proverbs 3:5 & 6 (NLT): Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.
- Patience and Rest
Psalm 127: 1 & 2 (NLT):

1 Unless the Lord builds a house,
the work of the builders is wasted.
Unless the Lord protects a city,
guarding it with sentries will do no good.
2 It is useless for you to work so hard
from early morning until late at night,
anxiously working for food to eat;
for God gives rest to his loved ones.

Study Guide

1. When you initially see the word 'Patience' what comes to mind?

2. Sunday's message was divided into roughly two sections: 'Exterior' and 'Interior'. Review the points regarding the 'Exterior' approach to patience, and then comment on your own understanding and experience.

3. Do the same with the points about the 'Interior' links between Patience and

- Hope
- Trust
- Rest

4. What are you presently learning with regards to thriving in Patience ? Can you identify any roadblocks along this way? What about progress—what are you seeing there?

5. Take a few moments to ponder the whole idea of Patience, especially what it means to thrive in partnership with the Lord.