

=THE CHRISTIAN LIFE=

Lesson 15

Patience

AIM: to teach my pupils patience.

POINT OF CONTACT: Lead the pupils to discuss the different colloquialisms for the opposite of patience, such as, “blowing your stack,” “blowing your cork,” “flipping your lid,” etc. Then lead them to know that these are not the things a Christian should do.

INTRODUCTION: There are two words translated “patience” in the Bible. Actually, one of these words could be translated “patience,” and the other, “longsuffering.” There is a difference in the two. Patience is the quality that does not surrender to the circumstances or succumb under trial. It is the opposite of despondency. It is the quality that keeps one from becoming despondent when the circumstances are bad. On the other hand, longsuffering is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish. It is the opposite of anger. In other words, when one is patient, he is patient under the circumstances of life. (Teacher, have the pupils list some circumstances that cause impatience.) Longsuffering is exerted when one is provoked from without but does not retaliate. (Teacher, ask the pupils to share with you some things that provoke them from without. Then lead them to overcome this.)

I. PATIENCE.

1. The word “patience” comes from two Greek words: One means “abide” and the other means “under.” Hence, it means “to stay under.”
2. Patience may grow through trial, James 1:3.
3. Patience may grow because of punishment or chastisement from the hand of God.
4. Patience may grow because of affliction or suffering, I Peter 2:20.
5. We are to be patient in our running the race for Christ, Hebrews 12:1.
6. We are to be patient in well doing, Romans 2:7.
7. Patience perfects Christian character, James 1:4.
8. Our degree of patience determines our degree of authority when we reign with Christ, II Timothy 2:12; Revelation 1:9.
9. We are to wait patiently for Christ, II Thessalonians 3:5.
10. We are to be patient in our sufferings as Christ was patient in His, Hebrews 12:2.
11. We are to be patient in waiting for vindication, victory, and deliverance, Hebrews 10:13.
12. We find patience by staying in the Word of God, Revelation 3:10.
13. There is a form of the word “patience” which means “to tarry behind” or “to wait.” This is found in Luke 2:43; Acts 17:14; Romans 8:23. We are to keep working and keep serving, and we should wait for God to give the increase, vindication, and the blessing.

II. LONGSUFFERING.

1. The word “longsuffering” comes from two Greek words which mean “long” and “temper.” In other words, it means “long-tempered” or “not quick to temper.”
2. It is a characteristic of God, Exodus 34:6; Numbers 14:18; Psalm 86:15; II Peter 3:9.
3. The pastor is to be “long-tempered,” II Timothy 4:2.
4. The Apostle Paul was longsuffering, II Timothy 3:10.
5. Notice some things akin to longsuffering, Colossians 3:12-14. These are things that promote longsuffering and accompany it: meekness, humbleness of mind, mercy, forgiveness, love, etc.
6. Longsuffering is a part of the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22.

III. FORBEARANCE. There is a third word that is intertwined with patience. It is the word “forbearance.”

1. Forbearance means “to hold up.” It is the word from which we get our “echo.” Something keeps on going; it goes on up. This means that we are “to hold up” each other constantly.
2. The word “forbearance” also means “to send up” or “to send back”; hence, to relax, loosen. It means, in other words, “making less tense,” “causing less tension,” etc.
3. Forbearance also means “to refrain from doing something.” In other words, we want to retaliate, but we don’t; we refrain from it.

4. Forbearance also means “protect by covering.” It could be worded “conceal,” “to bear up under,” “to cover up the faults of another,” etc.
5. There is another word in the New Testament translated “forbearance” which means “a holding back,” “a delay of punishment,” “a waiting before retaliating,” etc.

CONCLUSION: Teacher, be very practical with the lesson. Think of different circumstances under which one might be impatient, quick-tempered, and retaliatory. Choose the incidents according to the age of your class members.