

Day 1

# Patience

**Silence (2 minutes)** Take some time to be quiet, to calm down, and to listen. What has God been teaching you? What are the next steps He wants you to take? How is your spirit doing?

**Scripture** *You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.* Hebrews 10:36

**Discussion** The author of Hebrews has written about the superiority of Jesus and the second covenant compared to the first covenant of the Law of Moses. He now calls on the Christian readers to *“draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith...Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess...let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...Let us not give up meeting together...Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering...do not throw away your confidence...”* (Heb. 10:22-35). He then writes the above verse calling on followers of Jesus, including us, to persevere; to be patient. We are to have full confidence in who Jesus is and that He has died for our sin and redeemed us, purchased us back, so that we can be in relationship with the Father. We are to patiently pursue: drawing near to God in prayer and Scripture, being active in love and good deeds, encouraging each other to be active in love and good deeds, meeting together for worship, teaching, communion, fellowship, and remembering difficult times when we suffered, persevered, and God was faithful. We are not to idly neglect or throw away our confidence, but to consciously hold on to the confidence that is ours in Jesus, that we belong to Him. We are to patiently continue day after day, year after year. *“You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.”* We are God’s people and this is our life. *“...I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am”* (John 14:2-3).

**Application** Patience can be viewed as a natural outpouring of our confidence in God’s promises. We know that salvation will be ours and that Christ has promised to bring about sanctification in our lives as we pursue His purpose for our lives. It can be tempting to want to rush God’s timing in our lives, and even tempting pursue things we believe God wants for us in our own power. Patience is meant for our own good, however. It allows us to seek God’s will in all things by simply waiting for what God has promised to come true. Consider: are there any areas of your life you feel like God may be calling you to exercise patience today? Is there anything that you might be pursuing in your own power because you have grown impatient on God’s timing? Ask God to give you peace and confidence as you seek to exercise patience in these areas!

**Prayer** Jesus, I praise You for Your perseverance and patience, that You obeyed and completed the will of the Father. Thank You that I, that we, belong to You and You are our hope. You are our hope now and for the future when You return to raise us up to be with You. Jesus, I commit myself to listen and obey Your voice, patiently pursuing the activities that support my faith, the faith of the Church, and showing Your love to those who don’t know You. Thank You, Jesus. Amen.

**Silence (2 minutes)** Talk to God about what you are learning. What are your fears? Where are your hangups? Pray for direction.

**Scripture memory** for the week: *“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.”*

James 1:19-20