

God is **Patient!**

We all have to be **Patient at times**. We have to wait. You **wait your turn** to get a drink at the water faucet. You wait for the bathroom. You wait in line to get your ice cream cone.

**You have to be Patient!**

If you go to **Disneyland**, you WAIT for everything. If you're not patient, you're not going to have a good time at Disneyland. Because it's a lot of waiting.

But, does God have to wait? **Does God have to be patient?**

And, if He has to wait, **what is He waiting for?**

He's waiting for **you!**

In **2 Peter 2**, people were complaining: **"When is Jesus coming back?"** They were running out of patience. **"Why doesn't He just come already?"**

Peter tells us what God is waiting for.

**2 Peter 2:9**

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness,

- He's going to come back
- He's going to fulfill his promise

But [He] is patient toward **you**,

- He's waiting for you

but [He] is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Who is Paul talking about? **Who** is this YOU?

These are God's children...as **Ephesians 1** says, they were chosen before the foundation of the world.

But many of them **STILL** have not repented of their sin yet.

They haven't believed on Jesus yet.

And, God is giving them time. God is waiting. Because...

**God is patient!**

There is a sense in which God is **not wishing that any should perish**. He doesn't want anyone to go to hell.

God doesn't enjoy **TORTURING PEOPLE**. He doesn't enjoy their suffering.

But! **He does love Justice**. **Isaiah 61:8** – "I the Lord love justice..."

When the Time is up. **Judgment Day** will come. And, God will enjoy throwing the wicked into the Lake of Fire.

**Not** because He enjoys their suffering, but because he loves **JUSTICE!!!**

But for now, **God is being patient**.

He is waiting for you.

For you who are His **ELECT**... His chosen ones.

### **Ephesians 1:4**

He chose us in him before the foundation of the world.

He **chose us**. Jesus is waiting patiently for all of his chosen ones to come to Him.

That's **why** He hasn't come back yet.

Because when He does... It's **GAME OVER**. It's judgment day for all who have not repented and turned to Christ.

God has a **long history** of being patient.

**God** told Abraham: **"I'm going to destroy Sodom."** It was a terribly evil CITY with anger, hatred, violence, murder. God's patience had run out, and He was done with them.

But Abraham pleaded with God: **"What if there are 50 righteous** in the city? Will you spare the city?"

[No click] **Genesis 18:24-25**

"Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

How bold! How audacious! Abraham confronts God. He tells God, "You need to do what is right!"

**Genesis 18:26** - God responds...

<sup>26</sup> And the LORD said, **"If I find at Sodom fifty righteous** in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

Then, Abraham says: **"What if there are 45? 40? 30? ... Ok God... Bear with me. Be patient with me. What if there are only 10?"**

God said, **"I won't destroy the city** if there are 45, 40, 30...or even ONLY 10 righteous people.

But there **weren't** even 10 righteous people. The only righteous ones were Lot's family.

Ultimately, God sent angels to **WARN Lot's family** to get out of Sodom. And, then **He destroyed the city**.

Oh, the patience of God to put up with evil people.

Oh, the patience of God to even entertain this conversation with Abraham.

In the Bible, you **DON'T SEE** God described specifically with the **WORD PATIENT** very often, but we see the Bible saying He is **"slow to anger."**

### **Numbers 14:18**

The Lord is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression...

What does God's patience look like? It is...

- Slow to anger: God doesn't get angry quickly.
- **Abundant in lovingkindness**: He's full of love for us.
- **Forgiving**: He's willing to forgive us. He wants to forgive us. – That's why He sent **Jesus** to die on the cross for us!

That's what God's patience looks like!

### Acts 13:18

For a period of about forty years, He put up with them in the wilderness.

He put up with them... That is patience.

Have you ever put up with someone?

- Maybe you had a brother or sister who was irritating you
- Or, a friend at school who was being mean

But you **WEREN'T** mean back. You **PUT UP** with their mean words. You **didn't** fight back. You didn't say any mean words back to them. You were patient and kind.

That's how God is. God is patient.

The **ISRAELITES** were terrible to God in the desert.

- They worshipped a golden calf
- They grumbled and complained
- God COULD have destroyed them, but he didn't.

He put up with them. Why? Because

God is patient.

## Why is God patient?

- I'll give you 3 reasons, and then we'll talk about what happens when God's patience runs out.

### 1. His patience is for the glory of His great name.

His patience is one of the things we WORSHIP Him for.

#### Isaiah 48:9

For the sake of My name, I delay My wrath, and for My praise I restrain it for you, in order not to cut you off.

He says, "I delay my wrath." God holds back. He puts up with us because He is patient.

And, He says I'm being patient for the sake of My name. So, that we will glorify God and honor His great name.

And, we will say and sing: "**Lord, I praise you** because you are patient. You are slow to anger. Forgiving. And abounding in love."

### 2. His patience is to give us time to repent.

And, He is patient for you. Regarding his judgment and wrath, He says, "I restrain it for you."

For His people. He doesn't want to just cut US off or destroy us. So...He gives us more time so that we will repent and turn to Him.

### 3. He is patient because He is testing you.

He's testing your heart. **WILL YOU believe?** Will you confess your sin? Will you repent?

**Deuteronomy 8:2** – God says to Israel...

You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

40 years God took to test the Israelites.

**God is testing you.** He is watching. He is waiting to see what you will do with your life.

**Will you obey** Him? Will you believe Him? Will you walk in His ways?

He **DOESN'T just kill you** the first time you sin... because He's waiting to see what you will do next.

**But, beware!**

**His patience will not last forever.**

There will be a **Judgement Day!**

Time will come to an end. Jesus will return. And, He will judge the world in righteousness.

### 2 Peter 2:10

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Your sin will be exposed. God's patience will come to an end.

Then... **The day of the Lord will come!**

There will be a day when God judges the world. But **YOU WON'T KNOW** when it's coming!

It will come like a thief. It will be unexpected. **Surprise!**

But for now, God is holding off. **Why?**

So that you have time to repent of your sin and put your faith in Jesus.

**The Bible says:** Today is the day of salvation.

If you repent of your sin, and beg God to save you today... He will. **Why?**

**God is patient.**

**God** is willing to save you today. **Tomorrow**, he might not. You might not live until **tomorrow**. Jesus might come back tonight.

This might be your very **LAST CHANCE** to be saved.

Today is the day of salvation.

→ If you'd like to commit your life to Jesus right now, please **stand up**.

Say sinners prayer.