

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020

## Patience

The first known recording of the proverb, *'Patience is a virtue'* is thought to have been written in a poem by William Langland in the latter half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It is similar to the Latin expression *'paptentia virtus'* (Patience is the greater value.)

Some of us seem to be born with patience while for others, it is a trial which has to be worked at over and over again. Perhaps, when we are faced with difficult circumstances, we should see it as an opportunity to grow in patience and to submit to God's will.

There are many references to patience in the Bible. *'Jesus endured with much patience the forty days in the wilderness when he hungered and was with the wild beasts.'* (Mark 1:13)

*'Love is patient'* (1 Corinthians 13:4) Are we being trained towards Godliness and is this directing us to perfect our love for God?

*'Rejoice in hope. Be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.'* Romans 12:12 We all have issues which challenge us, but as Christians, when we put our faith and trust in God, we need not feel impatient or worried about the outcome for He is in control. God will give us the strength to be patient if we go to Him in prayer. We should not attempt to make what we want to happen, happen. If we give Him the power in our lives, He will do what is right for us. We do not need to struggle. If we have to wait for answers it is because God's plan for us is of a greater quality than we could ever have imagined. If we give ourselves to Him through prayer, He will work through us in ways we could never imagine.

God wants us to be patient to slow us down and to show us how to trust in Him. God does not test us for the sake of it. He tests us to teach us to walk in His ways and to trust in Him.

God's nature does not change. He will always be patient with us.

Prayer: Gracious God, many of us are often impatient. We are unable to allow things to happen in the right way and at the best time. When we have issues, we do not always come to You in prayer to ask for Your guidance. Lord, help us to be patient, help us to wait for things to happen in the way You wish them to happen, to rejoice in the experience and to always trust in You. Amen