

## Character Trait for December is Patience

**Philippians 1:9-10, "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ"**

**CHARACTER:** the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

**Patience:** Taking the necessary time to work through difficult situations.

**Derivation:** The Latin root pati means "to suffer or endure." Around 1200, the English adopted the French derivative, patience, meaning "patience or endurance."

**Weekly Verse:** Colossians 3:12 "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

**Bible Story:** We often hear about "the patience of Job". Read about it in Job 1-2.

**Quote:** "Patience is not the ability to wait, but how you act while waiting."

### Application:

**Taking time:** If problems worked themselves out quickly, or solutions were easy to find, you would never need to learn patience. Problems and solutions are seldom so accommodating. Time is precious, and in order to be patient, you must be willing to give the challenges you face the time they need to work out.

**Work through:** It would be nice if all we had to do when faced with a difficult situation was to "wait it out." While there are instances when waiting is the prudent option, most times we benefit ourselves if we can discover things we can do or tasks we can accomplish while we wait.

**Difficult situation:** The older we get, the more difficult situations we will be faced with. Perhaps that is why it seems that older people are more patient. They have experienced setbacks, challenges, and problems; and have, or will, come out on the other side. Through these experiences, they gain wisdom and therefore are better able to handle the next set of problems life throws their way. If you ask them, they may be able to provide you with valuable advice on how to learn patience.

### Discussion Questions:

Is there a difference between being patient and being passive? How can you tell the difference?

What is one area of your life where you need to exercise patience right now?