

## 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.

**Weekly Verse:** Ephesians 4:1,2 "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

**Bible Story:** Luke 2:22-39 describe the patience of Simeon and Anna as they waited for the birth of the Messiah.

**Quote:** "All men commend patience, but few are willing to practice it."

**Application:** Most people do not like to wait. This is why companies market instant coffee, instant oatmeal, and fast food. Many things in life, however, require time.

**Grow:** Unforeseen circumstances can throw a wrench in your plans. When you have a long list of errands, you can get stuck in traffic. When you plan to go on vacation, your child can get sick. Fretting or fuming never speeds up the process and usually just makes you and the people around you miserable.

**Overcome:** You may also become impatient with yourself. Mistakes can seem overwhelming when you are under extra stress, but you cannot use this feeling to excuse inactivity or stubbornness. Take a realistic view of yourself. Determine whether you see the situation accurately. Discern what you actually did wrong, and focus on the steps you can take to make the situation better so that you can avoid failures in the future.

**Tolerate:** Differing personalities, quirky behavior, or character deficiencies can get on your nerves. Yet you must treat those around you with respect. Step back and consider who they are, what motivates them, and how you can help them succeed. Recognize how others have waited on you and borne with your idiosyncrasies. Many times, the only way you can repay those who benefit you is through your investment in others.

### Discussion Questions:

Is there a difference between accepting conditions and condoning them? Why?

How do you overcome being impatient with yourself?