

Day 1 *A Divine Hope*  
Day 2 *Be Still, Be Filled*  
Day 3 *Lest You Be Judged*

Day 4 *Have Mercy*  
Day 5 *A Clean Slate*

## Week 6

# A Composite of Peculiar Patience



Have you ever known a serene person who never passed judgment on others? How often do the failures, emotions, or outright sins of someone else ruin your peace of mind? What would it be like if you refused to allow the behavior of others to spoil your day? This week we will study the commodity called patience, a characteristic of the fruit the Spirit desires to bear in your life. Patience is inspired by mercy, devoid of condemnation, and evidence of the presence and power of our Holy God.

This week we study a distinctive form of patience called *makrothumia*. Mercy drives this patience. Because God has mercy on us, He shows us incredible patience. Because we are becoming like Him, we reflect His patience to others.

### Principal Questions

- Day 1: Exactly what “inspired” the endurance of the Thessalonians?
- Day 2: What was God’s promise to Noah, and what was the proof God gave to seal the covenant?
- Day 3: What was David’s attitude toward judgment after his sin of pride in 2 Samuel 24:14?
- Day 4: How does God create ministry from misery?
- Day 5: What percentage of our sin does God forgive?

Day 1

# A Divine Hope

Through week 6 we study the fourth quality of the fruit of the Spirit: patience. Two important Greek words translate into the English word *patience*: *hupomone* and *makrothumia*. Both words are vital in the life of the believer, but only one is a quality of the fruit of the Spirit.

*Makrothumia* is the word used in Galatians 5:22, but we cannot fully comprehend its meaning apart from the word *hupomone*. For this reason, we will devote today's study to this wonderful, yet often painful, Greek word.

The word *hupomone* possesses the meaning you most often associate with the word *patience*. It means "to persevere, remain under....bearing up under. ...refers to that quality of character which does not allow one to surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial."<sup>1</sup> *Hupomone* is endurance in relation to "things or circumstances."<sup>2</sup> The word has another important component, best discovered in 1 Thessalonians 1:3. Carefully read this verse. As we will see today *hupomone* is often translated "endurance" or "perseverance" in the NIV.

☞ Exactly what "inspired" the endurance of the Thessalonians?

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A very strong association with hope is crucial to our understanding of the word *hupomone*. The Greek word for *hope* is *elpis*, and it means the "desire of some good with expectation of obtaining it."<sup>3</sup>

As you see, the Greek meaning of *hope* is much stronger than our English definition. We think of hope as a positive thought or wish toward something we might obtain. The biblical concept of hope is a positive outlook toward an expected end. Biblical hope is not focused on what might happen but what must happen. Thus we can say that *hupomone* is perseverance, endurance, and bearing up under difficult things or circumstances inspired by a beneficial expectation. Keep in mind, hope inspires *hupomone*.

Let's take a look at several examples of *hupomone*. Look up James 5:11. The NIV's English word *perseverance* is translated from the Greek word *hupomone*.

What biblical character possessed *hupomone*? \_\_\_\_\_

Take a quick look back at week 5, day 1. What were a few of the "situations or circumstances" through which Job persevered?

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☞ Today's Treasure:

"So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised" (Heb. 10:35-36).

Have you ever wondered why Job remained faithful? What in the world was his motivation? his inspiration?

**Since Job possessed *hupomone*, what HAD to be his major inspiration according to the specific meaning of this Greek word?**

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Two major “hopes” inspired the incomparable perseverance or patience of Job. We discover the first in chapter 23.

**Read Job 23:8-10. When Job could not find God, in what did he take comfort? (v. 10).** \_\_\_\_\_

Job could not “find” God, but he knew without a doubt that God had not lost him. “He knows the way that I take.” Job knew that God had not overlooked one moment of his agony, and he had HOPE in a very precious promise: “when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.”

How often, in the midst of a trial, have we all said, “I don’t know how any good will ever come from this one.” Yet, have we ever lost our entire fortune, all our children, and our health? In the midst of circumstances which continually testified that nothing good could ever be obtained, Job persevered, fueled by his hope that, “when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.”

The metaphor of gold holds such beautiful symbolism for our instruction. Gold is not “finished” until it reaches a point of perfect luster. The chief objective of the refiner is to bring the gold to a point of greatest reflection. The gold is not as costly for its own sake as it is for the sake of that which it reflects. It is the light which exposes its qualities.

Interestingly, the Greek word for *glory* is *doxa* which means to give a correct estimation of.<sup>4</sup> For instance, according to 1 Corinthians 10:31, we are “to give a correct estimation of God” in all that we “eat, drink, or whatever we do.” In other words, our actions are to reflect God’s actions (what they would be) in that situation. Job believed that his trials would result in his own refinement in God and God’s own reflection in him. Job placed his hope in the truth expressed in Romans 8:28 long before it was ever written!

**What things work together for the good of those who love Him and who have been called according to His purpose? (Rom. 8:28).**

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**The refining process is rarely comfortable, but what is OUR “HOPE” or expectation? (Rom. 8:29).**

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Our expectation is that we shall be conformed to the very likeness of Jesus. Like Job, in that process we can confidently depend on one thing: being made conformable is rarely comfortable. But when Christ is reflected in us as in fine gold, our glorious hopes are fulfilled.

**How are we being “transformed” into His likeness? (2 Cor. 3:18).**

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Job drew upon two hopes. He had hope in the fact that God was at work. God had not misplaced or forgotten about him. Job trusted that God would transform him. Now take a look at Job 19:25-27 to find the second “hope” which inspired Job’s perseverance.

**Read Job 19:25-27. In what was Job ultimately placing his hope?**

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Glory! Although Job had never seen God, he voiced his faith that someday God would assume a bodily form and stand upon this very earth! He also knew that one day, after his old body had been destroyed, he would take on a new body and return to the earth. In that new body Job would see his God—not through someone else’s eyes, but with his very own! His heart yearned for the day, and that yearning was his hope...a hope which inspired his incredible perseverance.

Job did not possess a single motivation that we don’t possess. In Scripture we hold in our hands vast promises that Job never held, assuring us that God will work our pain toward perfection. We also possess written prophecy which promises us that our “Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth” (Job 19:25), and in that moment we will “see him as he is” (1 John 3:2).

Let’s conclude today by looking up each of the following appearances of the word *hupomone*. The word is translated in English forms of either “endurance” or “perseverance.” Remember, *hupomone* is always inspired by hope.

**In each of the following circumstances, record what appears to be the “hope” inspiring *hupomone*.**

**Hebrews 10:35-36:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Hebrews 12:1-2:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**James 1:2-4** \_\_\_\_\_

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How does God want you to respond to what He showed you today?

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2 Timothy 2:10 \_\_\_\_\_

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2 Timothy 2:12 \_\_\_\_\_

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Without hope, no patience; without patience, no maturity; without maturity, no reflection; and without reflection, no glory.

Close with Colossians 1:27. Christ in you is the “\_\_\_\_\_

of \_\_\_\_\_”!

Are you presently experiencing difficulty in regard to situations or circumstances? Based on today’s study, what hopes do you possess to help you persevere through this trial?

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Pray for God’s guidance in those “situations and circumstances.” Thank Him for the hope He has already given you.

Day 2

Be Still, Be Filled

Today’s Treasure:

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9).

We learned about two Greek words translated into the English word patience: hupomone and makrothumia. We devoted the previous day’s study to cultivating an understanding of hupomone.

From the definition you learned on day 1, please fill in the following

blanks: Hupomone means “to \_\_\_\_\_, remain

\_\_\_\_\_ under.

[It] refers to that quality of character which does not allow one to

\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

or succumb under trial. HUPOMONE IS \_\_\_\_\_ in relation to things or circumstances.”