

**UN
CHANGE
ABLE**

WEEK 6



DAY 21: EXTRAORDINARY

PATIENCE

But I received mercy for this reason, so that in me, the worst of them, Christ Jesus might demonstrate his extraordinary patience as an example to those who would believe in him for eternal life. 1 TIMOTHY 1:16

Pause

Look over the previous days' lessons. Take some time to praise God for what you've learned already of His character. Thank Him for meeting with you today.

When are you the most impatient? Think about the people, situations, and circumstances that most often trigger your impatience. List a few.

It's easy for us to place our own characteristics on God. Because we get impatient, we think He will, especially in light of our sin. Even as Christians, we often sin, but we don't have to worry that God will get impatient with us and walk away. That's not who He is. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17 to learn more.

DAY 21: EXTRAORDINARY

PATIENCE

Consider these thoughts:

- Reread verses 12-14. Highlight or underline the words Paul used to describe himself before he came to Christ. What words would describe you before Jesus came into your life?

- According to this passage, why is Paul an example of God's great patience?

Paul obviously still marveled at the power of the gospel and the transformation Jesus had brought into His life. He knew how bad he'd been, so he understood the patience God had shown Him in forgiving Him and never giving up on Him.

- Have you ever felt that way about the gospel? Why or why not?

Behind the Story

The "extraordinary patience" discussed in verse 16 suggests an attitude of moral restraint even when provoked. In His patience, God holds back overdue judgment and offers forgiveness rather than separation and lostness.

The Point

Paul claimed to be the worst example of sin, but his life gives proof of God's great patience toward us. Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and no sin is too great for forgiveness.

Respond

Meditate on these truths: Because God is patient, I know He can forgive and transform me, no matter the sin. Because God is patient, I know that He will never be impatient with me.

DAY 22: HE WILL PROVIDE

And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

Pause

Take a few minutes to be still and remove any distractions from before you. Begin to prepare your heart for time alone with God. Read Philippians 4:15-20 in your Bible. From prison, Paul wrote these words. Even though the Philippian believers were facing persecution, they had sent Paul a monetary gift which was much more than Paul needed. He was overjoyed that the Philippians had given this gift out of a spirit of love and devotion and described it as an act of worship to God (v. 18).

The Philippian church wasn't wealthy, but God had met all of Paul's needs through their generosity. Paul wanted the Philippians to recognize that same truth: they served a God who could and would meet all of their needs.

Do you believe that? If so, do you live like it's true? Why or why not?

We live in a world where we look to people, organizations, our dreams, money, and many other things to meet our needs. But only God can truly meet all of our needs out of the abundance of His glorious riches. He can certainly meet our physical needs, but more than that, He meets our spiritual need. Only Christ can fill that deep spiritual void in our lives. Those who are "in Christ" have access to all of God's incalculable riches and can trust Him with their deepest needs.

DAY 22: HE WILL PROVIDE

Behind the Story

Paul planted the gospel in Philippi on his second missionary journey. He intended to head into North Central Asia, but saw a man in a vision asking for his help in northern Greece. He returned to Philippi on his third missionary trip. Philippi held a dear place in Paul's heart. They were the only church to send him gifts of support. He was grateful and assured the church that God would meet their needs just as God had met his. Though written in prison, Paul uses the word "joy" 16 times in this letter. He understood worldly possessions could not bring peace and contentment.

The Point

Only God can meet our deepest spiritual needs. All else is temporary happiness.

Respond

Philippians 4:19 isn't about getting whatever you want. It's more about trusting God, knowing that He knows what you need better than you do and is more than able to provide it. It's trusting Him in every circumstance, knowing He uses all things for His glory and His purposes.

- Personalize verse 19 as a prayer to God. Be honest with Him about the needs you see in your life, and express your confidence that He is the only One who can meet all of them.
- Trusting God involves following and serving Him. Ask God to reveal any ways you can step out in service and obedience to Him, trusting Him to meet your needs and provide strength to face obstacles. List two action steps you'll take to be obedient to what He reveals.

DAY 23: OUR PROTECTOR

He will not allow your foot to slip; your Protector will not slumber. Indeed, the Protector of Israel does not slumber or sleep. The Lord protects you; the Lord is a shelter right by your side. PSALM 121:3-5

Pause

Focus your mind and heart on God. Ask Him to prepare you for what He has to teach you today. Read Psalm 121:1-8 in your Bible and consider the following:

Protector: This is from the Hebrew word “shamar,” which means “to guard,” “protect,” “keep,” or “observe.” God is presented as the Guardian and Protector here. How have you seen God act as Protector?

Slumber or sleep: God’s protection is continual. He is always awake and always attentive to the needs of His people. What does this teach you about God’s character?

Shelter: Sometimes translated “shade,” this conveys the idea of relief or protection in the midst of oppression. When have you seen God be a shelter for someone? For you?

DAY 23: OUR PROTECTOR

Behind the Story

Psalm 121 is classified as a “song of ascent.” Jewish pilgrims sang these songs as they made their way to Jerusalem to worship God and participate in the seasonal feasts. The journey involved an upward ascent into the city, reflected in the words of Psalm 121. Pilgrims likely made this journey three times a year.

The Point

God is always present; you cannot escape from His watchful care. He is a faithful guardian and protector of His people.

Respond

This psalm was sung by people on the way to Jerusalem to worship God. Throughout their journey, they acknowledged the ways He protected and cared for them along the way. How have you seen God do the same as you journey through life? Recall a specific way God has shown you He is your protector recently. Write your psalm of praise and thankfulness for His protection below.

DAY 24: A GOD WHO SAVES

Blessed be the Lord! Day after day he bears our burdens; God is our salvation. Our God is a God of salvation, and escape from death belongs to the Lord my Lord.

PSALM 68:19-20

Pause

Reflect on your view of God. Do you usually see Him as Creator? Father? Judge? What about as your Redeemer?

Ask Him to show Himself to you in a new way today.

Read Psalm 68:19-20 in your Bible. Dig deeper into the passage by thinking through these questions:

Some people think that God is presented as harsh and eager to punish us in the Old Testament, but Jesus is all about love and forgiveness in the New Testament. What statements in these verses tell you that view is wrong?

What does God's desire to rescue those who are lost, in danger, bound, and broken teach you about His character?

DAY 24: A GOD WHO SAVES

Behind the Story

Psalm 68 is a song of praise to God as the Divine Warrior who delivers His people. It retells how God rescued His people from Egyptian slavery and vanquished their opponents through the wilderness on the way to the promised land. It paints Him as the compassionate champion of widows, orphans, the homeless, and prisoners. God's history as Redeemer sets the stage for salvation He ultimately provides for all the world through His Son.

The Point

God is the God of salvation. He is and has always been the God who saves, bears our burdens, and rescues us.

Respond

If your house was on fire or being robbed, you'd probably call 911. That's because you believe the emergency response professionals will do their job to rescue you. You understand their role. It's also important that you understand God's role as Savior in your life. Spend a few minutes mulling over this thought. Then, journal a prayer thanking God for specific ways He has acted as your Savior or Rescuer.

MEMORY VERSE

Write Romans 10:9-10 on a sheet of paper, writing each phrase on a different line and in a different color. Read over it several times a day.