

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

Schedule Of Services:

Lord's Day:	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
Wednesday:	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Our Elders:

**Johnie Dodds
Harry Elliott
Austin Willis**

Our Deacons:

**Danny Carpenter
Wayne Hulme
Tommy Sawyers**

Our Preacher: **T. Sean Sullivan**

The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

**OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD
Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37**

**BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS
Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21**

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

Patience and Kindness

Introduction:

One certainty that we must hold onto is that all expectations of God are achievable. Even though all people faced tasks with different levels of ability we all must know that God does not required of us more than our capabilities allow.

The reason that we are starting with this thought is because the subject of today's lesson is challenging, but must be achievable. Patience is a difficult character trait in our modern environment. It seems that the faster life gets, the more our patience grows thin. Hand in hand with patience is kindness. If you lack one you lack both—if you have one you have both. We often learn these two corresponding skills from our parents or those who have influence on our early lives. However, a lack of example in these areas is not an excuse to abandon them. As with all challenges we must rise up to meet them. Both patience and kindness are trainable skills and in order to know how to develop them we must go to the word of God. Then with the knowledge of God's word we will have to make practical application of patience. So let's open our Bible texts to examine in more detail, patience and its practical counterpart kindness.

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Patience is from God

As we increase our relationship with God we will have a better understanding of this life and its burdens. It is no secret that God promises a better way of living that is not like the world's way (Ephesians 4:17-20). Even after one enters into a relationship with God through His Son they are only at the beginning—we all need to grow in that relationship, improving all the good things.

Prayer to God brings an increase of patience. Those who pray know the great benefits—things we will never know without praying. There is no better way to draw near to God (James 4:8); God is closer to our hearts through prayer (1 Peter 5:7). The burdens of life so often test our patience; prayer petitions God's help and knowing that God knows, and He cares, allows us to be patient.

Study of God's word also brings an increase of patience. The knowledge of God: His power, His care, and His promises all increase our patience. Paul promises that through reading and applying the word progress would be evident (1 Timothy 4:13-16). The knowledge of the word of God allows us to form a more patient perspective.

Patience is found in Proper Perspective

Confidence is key to patience. In this life we must be confident that our faith is in God who is real. We must see God as our rewarder (Hebrews 11:6). We must confidently know that God loves us and no one else can change that fact (Romans 8:31-39). We must know God knows our needs and cares (Matthew 6:25-33).

How do you look at life? Do you see life through patient eyes? During hard times one's perspective is the determining factor on whether they will succeed or fail under the pressure. There is a different way of looking at hardships or trials as one who has confidence in God (1 Peter 1:6-9). One can be patient in extreme situations when they put their confidence in God (Job 1:20-22, 2:10). This is where patient become very practical.

Practical Patience is Needed

Certain times in our life patience is easy and others not so easy. We want to pray "Lord give me patience, right

now". Patience is a skill that needs to be developed.

We need to develop patience with God because God does not always work in our time frame (2 Peter 3:8; 1 Timothy 6:15)—but we know He cares (1 Peter 5:7).

We certainly need to develop patience with self since salvation is found through patient continuance according to Romans 2:7. We must exercise patience in all areas, even trials (Romans 12:12). Then the great need of developed patience toward others. This practical side of patience is where kindness really takes a front seat. Personal relationships are complicated—they're only not complicated when we have figured out what the complications are and have met them—so, all in all, personal relationships are complicated. Being a member of this congregation is a personal relationship. People will depend on you and you will depend on them in return. This too can be a complicated situation. There will be times when your patience is challenged, but patience must remain (Ephesians 2:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:14).

Conclusion:

All expectations of God are achievable. God does not require more than we are capable of. Patience can be difficult character trait but we need to have it. We need patience with God, self, and others. The greatest proof of patience is simple kindness.

We must extend ourselves to others with kindness.

God has patiently offered you the opportunity of being here today—so that you might honor His patience with obedience. Are you ready to appreciate how long God has waited patiently for you to obey? Come to Him today.

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