

“GOD IS PATIENT” DEVOTIONAL & PRAYER

Our prayer this week focuses on God Who is “*Patient*”. He is longsuffering, tolerant, understanding, persevering and constant in our lives.

It comes from our prayer verse: Isaiah 30:18 "Therefore the Lord will *wait (patiently)*, that He may be gracious to you; and therefore will be exalted that He may have mercy on you. For the Lord is God of justice; blessed are those who *wait* for Him."

Our encouragement from this is that God is perfect in *patience* towards each one of us. His *patience* is not the human kind or one that we can even understand or comprehend, but it is a supernatural, holy *patience* that only the God of the universe can have. It is a *patience* that has no boundaries and is longsuffering and tolerant to the created things that He has made. Because He is the Creator of each one of us, He has a precise understanding of who we are, of where we are today and why we are there, of what we are doing and why we are doing it, and what we need to get us to where we need to go. He is also the One Who has a supernatural gracious *patience* that is balanced by His perfect justice and understanding of us and He *patiently* leads and guides us to where we need to go to be in a close relationship with Him. He is longsuffering with us and perseveres in drawing us to Him, for His *patience* with us allows us time for repentance. He *patiently* provides the opportunity and encouragement through His Word and believers around us that help lead us to this repentance. William Barclay wrote "If God had been a man, He would have taken His hand and wiped out this world long ago; but God has that *patience* which bears with all our sinning and which will not cast us off. In our lives, in our attitude to and dealings with fellow men, we must reproduce this loving, forbearing, forgiving, *patient* attitude of God toward [others]." God's glory is displayed by showing His merciful *patience* on the world, His people and on each one of us. Our prayer is that we and our loved ones will understand the *patience* of our Heavenly Father toward us and that we will not take it for granted but will humble our hearts and live under His leading and Lordship. And in return for His *patience* and love towards us, we will offer that same love and *patience* that God has given to us to others all around us as well, so they too may one day know the love of our Heavenly *Patient* Father. Let us pray:

"Dear Heavenly Father, we humbly bow before Your throne in our hearts and praise You for being *Patient*! We ask that You will wait *patiently* for me and...

(names of those you are praying for).

That you will be gracious to us and that you will be exalted and have mercy on us. For You, Lord, are God of justice. Let us be blessed because we wait for You! Lord, we believe You desire to do this for us for it is in Your Word. May we recognize our need for You and humble our hearts before your mighty throne. May our hope be in You all day long. Thank-you for loving us with an everlasting love and may it all be for the glory of Your name. In Your loving Son's name, Jesus, we pray, Amen."