

1 The Test of Patience

2 World's Longest Experiment

- In 1927, Professor Thomas Parnell of the University of Queensland in Australia, wanted to demonstrate to his students that some substances that appear to be solids are actually liquids.
- So he heated up some pitch and sealed it in a funnel-shaped glass tube.
- After three years, the pitch had coagulated, and Parnell unsealed the tube to see how long it would take for the now solidified mass of pitch to drain out.
- The “Pitch Drop Experiment” was born.

3 Pitch Drop Experiment

- By the time the first drop began to form two years later, most of Parnell's students had graduated.
- By the time the first drop actually fell, it was eight years.
- It took another eight years for the second drop to fall. Professor Parnell died in 1948, which means he saw only two drips.
- As of 2009, only eight drops have fallen, while a ninth has formed and could drop at any time.

4 Viscosity of Pitch

- After the eighth drop, scientists calculated the viscosity of the pitch to 230 billion times more than that of water.
- Which happens to be the same viscosity as that of the ketchup in Heinz Tomato Ketchup.
- “Anticipation is making me late, is keeping me waiting.” – Carly Simon

5 Classic TV Commercial

6 Classic TV Commercial

7 The Source

- In my humble opinion, the trouble with our society today can directly be traced to when we started to use squeeze ketchup bottles.
- Before then, every eating experience was a lesson on patience.
- But now, we have no exercise of this virtue when we eat.
- Our eating experiences are nothing more than instant ketchup gratification.

8 Moses & Impatient People

- Exodus 17:1-7
 - In chapter 14, God had delivered his people by a great miracle at the Red Sea.
 - By chapter 15, however, these same people are sounding more like impatient restaurant patrons than liberated slaves.

- God (whom the people see as being represented by Moses) isn't delivering water and food fast enough for their liking (15:22–24).
- They want a squeeze bottle and not a glass bottle for their ketchup and so complain like crazy.

9 Complaining People

- The people are angry that Moses brought them out there to “kill” them and their livestock with thirst (v. 3),
- Moses is concerned about his own hide because the people “are almost ready to stone” him (v. 4).
- Moses and the people both want help and they want it now.
- And both showed great impatience concerning their troubles.
- Because of their impatience both failed to enter the Promised Land.

10 Patience

- According to the Dictionary, patience is the capacity to accept or tolerate,
 - delay,
 - trouble,
 - suffering,
- . . . without getting angry or upset.
- A sure sign we are having problems with patience is griping, grumbling, and complaining, which is also a sign that our faith in God is weak as well.

11 Complaining

- Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. (Num 11:1 NIV)
- How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. (Num 14:27 NIV)
- Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, . . . (Num 14:30 NIV)
- And do not grumble, as some of them did — and were killed by the destroying angel. (1 Cor. 10:10)

12 Complaining & Unbelief

- And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Heb 11:6 NIV)
- Our faith is what we believe about God and it is seen through our actions.

- So when we give into frustration and become impatient where we allow ourselves to get mad and upset what do we usually do?
- Show our lack of faith in God.

13 The Faith of Abraham

- Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead — since he was about a hundred years old — and that Sarah’s womb was also dead (Rom 4:19 NIV)
- Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” (Rom 4:20–22 NIV)
- When God sees that we trust Him, He knows everything else will fall into place and by faith in us goes ahead and places us in good standing with Him.

14 Resist Complaining

- Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe . . . (Phil 2:14–15 NIV)
- Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness [or patience] be evident to all. The Lord is near. (Phil 4:4–5 NIV)
- And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts [emotions] and your minds [worry] in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:7 NIV)

15 Putting on Patience

- Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Col 3:12 NIV)
- You, however, know all about my [Apostle Paul] teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, (2 Tim 3:10 NIV)
- We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. (Heb 6:12 NIV)

16 Conclusion

- Patience is our ability to accept or tolerate problems without losing our cool.
- Having patience is a sign of what we think of God.
- So when we are patient it is a statement that we trust God with our lives.

17 Oops!

18 God is For Us!

- I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all. (Eccl 9:11 NIV)
- Frustration happens to everyone.
- What we do with that frustration is what makes us great in God's eyes.
- Remaining calm, cool, and collected during frustrating times is what being patient is all about.
- As it is through faith and patience (Heb 6:12) that we will inherit the Kingdom.

19 Practice Patience