

FIRST PETER

PART 104

"THE PATIENCE OF GOD"

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At times, one of our "faults" as humans is being short-tempered. Another way to state this condition is that sometimes we lack patience. (Note - Sometimes varies greatly with different individuals.) However, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, part of the fruit He produces in our lives is patience. (*Galatians 5:22*). As a result, we can actually have victory over our sin nature, and show supernatural patience on a daily basis.

Now, our gracious God, by His very nature, is always patient. His patience is always perfect and perfectly timed. He demonstrates His patience according to His sovereign purpose. A classic illustration of this took place during the days of Noah, prior to the worldwide judgment of the flood. Note these details.

THE DAYS OF NOAH

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- The culture was very **wicked**. (*Genesis 6:5*)
- Their lives were totally dominated by their own **sinful** desires. (*Matthew 24:38-39*)
- The sin in their lives was surrounded by **sensuality**. (*Luke 17:26-29*)

THE PATIENCE OF GOD

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- God was anxious in His patience for people to be **saved**.
- The warning period was **120** years. (*Genesis 6:3*)
- God provided an object **lesson** for all to see during that time.
- God was patient even though most on earth not only denied His existence, but also replaced Him for other worship **objects**. (*Romans 1:25*)
- Even though judgment came, God's patience is a clear demonstration that He would **desire** for all to be saved. (*2 Peter 3:9*)

NOAH'S RESPONSE TO THE PATIENCE OF GOD

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- He followed God's plans without **opposition**.
- He paid **careful** attention to the details of God's plans.
(*Genesis 6:22*)
- He proclaimed **truth** without wavering. (*2 Peter 2:5*)
- He maintained an attitude of **respect** for the entire time.
(*Hebrews 11:7*)
- He made faith-living a manner of **family** life. (*Hebrews 11:7*)

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Do not be surprised by the **hostility** and opposition of most people concerning biblical values and principles.
- Always let God's plans be the most **important** plans in your life.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Why is it hard to stick to God's plans for your life? Explain.
2. Men, do you lead your families in the area of faith-living?
3. Why do you allow this evil society to influence some of your plans?