

## Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
teaching and admonishing one another  
in all wisdom,  
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



Who is God? What is He like? Can He be known? These are the most important questions in the universe. The good news is God has answered these questions by revealing Himself through His attributes. The most important thing we can do in the universe is grow in our knowledge of God. We have been created by God to know God. For the season of Lent our devotions will be on knowing God through His attributes.

### **Patient**

Why are we saved? Because God is patient. Why has Jesus not yet returned? Because God is patient. God knows the beginning from the end so He doesn't have to be patient with things or events. When we speak of the patience of God, we are talking about His longsuffering toward people. God is longsuffering with sinners even when they provoke Him to no end.

The patience of God controls His sovereign plan and His perfect timing. The patience of God calms His righteous anger and makes forgiveness possible.

Patience has been called the neglected attribute of God, and our faith is impoverished because of it. The Father is infinitely patient. The Son of God is endlessly patient. The Holy Spirit is immeasurably patient.

### **Scripture on God being patient/longsuffering**

*Numbers 14:18 The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression.*

*Numbers 9:17 They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.*

*Psalms 86:15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.*

*Isaiah 30:18 Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you,  
and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.  
For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.*

*Joel 2:13 Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.*

*Jonah 4:2 Jonah prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.*

*Romans 2:4 Do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*

**Romans 12:19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written,  
“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

**I Timothy 1:16** I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

**II Peter 3:8-9, 15** But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

<sup>15</sup> And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.

## **Song**

**Psalm 59:16** But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.  
For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

### ***Have Thine Own Way, Lord***

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after thy will,  
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Search me and try me, Savior today!  
Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,  
As in thy presence humbly I bow.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Wounded and weary, help me I pray!  
Power, all power, surely is thine!  
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.  
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see  
Christ only, always, living in me!

(“Have Thine Own Way!” text Adelaide A. Pollard (1906), Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

## **Prayer**

**II Chronicles 7:14** If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Holy Father, what a glorious truth it is that you are slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness and steadfast love. Thank you for waiting for us to return from the far country like the prodigal son. Thank you for patiently enduring our sin and wanderings, our neglect of you and abuse of all your many great gifts, most of all your grace.

Father, in your mercy continue to be patient with us, your children. May this meditation on this divine attribute make us more submissive to your divine will and purposes. May this reflection on your patience make our hearts softer and our consciences more tender toward others. Grant us that grace to imitate this excellency of your character and nature. Grant us the grace to love our enemies, bless those who curse us, and do good to those who do evil. As you bear with our sin, enable us to do the same toward others. Hear our prayers in the name of our patient Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.