

# GARMENT 5: PATIENCE

UNIFORM OF A GODLY MAN SERIES

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and **patience**. – Colossians 3:12*

## THE GRIT OF PATIENCE

We want results. Progress. Movement. Now.

But beneath the drive and ambition, we're often running hot—restless, irritated, frustrated when people or plans don't move at our pace.

That's why we need this fifth garment.

Patience is the strength to trust God's pace—and the grit to give grace when people don't move, respond, or care like we think they should. It shows up in traffic, in team meetings, in unanswered texts, and in prayers that seem to bounce off the ceiling.

This is more than waiting.

It's staying anchored when you don't feel in control—because you trust the One who is.

## PATIENCE AT WORK

Patience at work is rare—and powerful. It shows up when:

- You pray first, even when your experience could “just get it done”
- You wait for clarity and peace instead of forcing action
- You choose what's right over what's convenient or quick
- You invest in someone who's struggling, instead of cutting ties too soon
- You leave room for compassion to reveal what's *really* going on

Patience doesn't kill productivity—it refines it. God gets more done through surrendered men than hurried ones.

*“Hurry is the enemy of love and the assassin of wisdom.”*

— Anonymous

## PERSPECTIVES ON PATIENCE

Let's be clear: Paul wasn't just telling us to slow down in Colossians 3:12. Patience is a posture. A mindset. A spiritual grip that stays steady in pressure and delay.

Here are five lenses from trusted voices that help us see what it really means to put on patience:

### 1. John Mark Comer — Patience is Submission to God's Pace

Comer reminds us that most of our impatience isn't about the task—it's about control. We want outcomes *now* because we think our timing is best. But patience is slowing your pace to match God's. Not pushing past Him.

### 2. Eugene Peterson — Patience is Long Obedience

Faithfulness is forged in rhythm, not adrenaline. Peterson called patience a *long obedience in the same direction*. That's spiritual manhood—not quitting when it's hard or when you don't see instant applause.

### 3. Tim Keller — Patience is Trust in God's Wisdom

Keller teaches that God may delay answers not because He's unwilling, but because He's wise. There may be a bigger story in play. A truly patient man doesn't just wait—he trusts.

### 4. Andrew Murray — Patience is Surrender

Before anything even stalls, the humble man releases control. He isn't surprised by setbacks — he's already surrendered the outcome.

### 5. Dallas Willard — Patience is Trained Composure

Willard believed patience is the fruit of a soul rooted in God. It's not "gritting your teeth" but a kind of anchored peace. You've trained your heart to stay steady, even when others spin out.

### 6. Craig Groeschel — The Impact Equation

Then Craig Groeschel ties it all together with this formula:

#### **(CONSISTENCY + FAITHFULNESS) × TIME = LASTING IMPACT**

- Consistency mirrors Willard's discipline.
- Faithfulness reflects Peterson's long obedience.
- Time assumes trust in God's wisdom and timing (Comer, Keller, Murray).

If you're aiming for real, lasting impact, patience isn't optional. It's the multiplier.

## PATIENCE AND THE POWER OF GRATITUDE

Most guys think patience is just waiting for something to change. But if you're only looking ahead, you'll miss what's already good.

Gratitude is what re-wires your soul in the waiting.

Think of it like generosity. People often say, *"I'll give more when I make more."* But if you can't give now, you won't give later.

Gratitude works the same way. If you don't learn to be thankful now, you'll stay empty — even when you get what you want.

A truly patient man doesn't obsess over what's missing. He thanks God for what *is*. And in doing that, he trains his soul to receive what's *next* — without entitlement, envy, or rush.

*"Contentment is the soil where patience grows."*

— not a quote, but it could be.

## CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q.** What tends to trigger your irritation when things move slower than you'd like?
- Q.** Who around you needs more grace than judgment from you this week?
- Q.** Where are you trying to control outcomes instead of surrendering them to God, seeking His wisdom, and trusting His timing?
- Q.** What can you genuinely thank God for in your current situation—even if it's not what you hoped for yet?

## SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- James 1:4 – "Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete..."
- Romans 12:12 – "Be patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."
- 2 Peter 3:9 – "The Lord is patient with you..."
- Proverbs 14:29 – "Whoever is patient has great understanding..."
- Ecclesiastes 7:8 – "The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride."

## PRAYER

Father, I want to move when You move—not before. Teach me to wait with peace, to walk with trust, and to work with faithfulness. I surrender my calendar, my expectations, and my need for speed. And I thank You now for what I don't yet see. You are good, even in the slow work.

## ACTION STEP

Before you jump into today's to-do list, stop.

Pray. Ask God what He wants you to *know* about the things on your calendar.

Don't start with tasks. Start with trust.

*"Seek first the Kingdom of God..." (Matthew 6:33)*

# PATIENCE

The quiet strength to stay steady when nothing's moving—and the faith to believe that God is.