

DEVOTIONAL

Hollywood Prayer Network

PATIENCE

This week's journal took me longer than any other week to write and I got so frustrated. Suddenly I realized the topic was patience! That made me laugh out loud. How often do we lose patience? Every day? Let's jump in and see what the Lord says about Patience, but don't be rushed about it! Take your time and be prepared for the Lord to teach you patience in unexpected ways....

DAY 1

CHRIST HAS GREAT PATIENCE

"PATIENCE SERVES AS A PROTECTION AGAINST WRONGS AS CLOTHES DO AGAINST COLD. FOR IF YOU PUT ON MORE CLOTHES AS THE COLD INCREASES, IT WILL HAVE NO POWER TO HURT YOU. SO, IN LIKE MANNER YOU MUST GROW IN PATIENCE WHEN YOU MEET WITH GREAT WRONGS, AND THEY WILL THEN BE POWERLESS TO VEX YOUR MIND."

-LEONARDO DA VINCI

New International Version

1 Timothy 1:15-16

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life."

DAY 1

PRAY: Dear God, I thank You that You have immense patience for me, even though I am a sinner. Thank You, that because I believe in You and have received eternal life, that You are always showing me mercy. I don't deserve how good You are to me, but I accept Your promise that You love me and have great patience for me. I am humbled by Your unconditional love and I praise You for Your patient, saving grace. Amen.

REFLECT: It's amazing that no matter how good or bad we are, God loves us, accepts us completely as we are, and patiently responds to us with mercy. Do you really believe this? Paul thought that he was the worst sinner of all. Can you think of any times when you felt this way and yet experienced God's unconditional mercy and immense patience?

ACT: If you journal, write down a specific instance when you felt you deserved punishment or condemnation and yet God patiently showed you grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Put that reminder somewhere that you can read again when you feel unworthy, or like a horrible sinner. It's important to remember God's saving love, grace, unlimited patience and faithfulness, that He gives to those who believe on Him.

DAY 2

PATIENTLY PREACH GOD'S WORD

"WAIT ON GOD AND HE WILL WORK, BUT DON'T WAIT IN SPIRITUAL SULKS BECAUSE YOU CANNOT SEE AN INCH IN FRONT OF YOU! ARE WE DETACHED ENOUGH FROM OUR SPIRITUAL HYSTERICS TO WAIT ON GOD? TO WAIT IS NOT TO SIT WITH FOLDED HANDS, BUT TO LEARN TO DO WHAT WE ARE TOLD."
-OSWALD CHAMBERS

New International Version

2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.

DAY 2

PRAY: Dear Jesus, please give me a good attitude and a Christ-like approach to preaching Your word. I want to be correct and encourage others with great patience and careful instruction, and I don't want to judge others as I'm talking about You, Your love and Your Word. Fill me with patience so that I can be an effective witness and not a hindrance or a stumbling block to others. I pray this in Your name. Amen.

REFLECT: Do you hear how some Christians often use God's words to rebuke others with judgment, anger or even hate? The Christians in Hollywood often feel that the Church is not "prepared" to encourage entertainment professionals, for they have no patience for Hollywood. Their anger and boycotts only cause an angry and defensive response. How can we be prepared in season and out of season and be more patient with people we don't agree with, so that we can lead them to Jesus with love, not judgment?

DAY 2

ACT: Have you ever talked against Hollywood or entertainment professionals? Have you thought that Christians should not be in Hollywood because it's evil and destructive? Or do you know anyone who feels that way? Could you look again at Hollywood with more patience and consider that those people need our prayers and our love in order to embrace Jesus? Choose now to help build a spiritual bridge between the Church and Hollywood by your response to the people and the projects coming out of the world's most influential mission field. Ask God to give you love and patience for them, because they are a part of your family.



DAY 3

GOD WILL REVEAL HIS GOODNESS

"A WAITING PERSON IS A PATIENT PERSON. THE WORD PATIENCE MEANS THE WILLINGNESS TO STAY WHERE WE ARE AND LIVE THE SITUATION OUT TO THE FULL IN THE BELIEF THAT SOMETHING HIDDEN THERE WILL MANIFEST ITSELF TO US."
-HENRI NOUWEN

New International Version

Psalms 27:13-14

I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

DAY 3

PRAY: Lord, I need Your help to be confident in believing that You are good. Help me to wait patiently for You, to be strong and to take heart. I want to see Your goodness here in the land of the living, but I need Your help. Thank You for being there for me, giving me strength and being patient with me so that I don't lose my confidence in You. Amen and Amen.

REFLECT: Have you thought that whenever God tells us to wait, it requires great patience? Joseph had to wait years to see his dream come to pass, Abraham and Sarah had to wait decades to see God's promised son, and the disciples had to wait for Jesus to reveal His truths to them. It took great patience for all of them. Can you say confidently that you will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living if you wait? It's all about patience!

ACT: Where, when, and with who do you struggle with patience? List three things that you are not patient with. Is it with annoying people? Is it with waiting for the Lord to answer your prayers, or waiting for family members to become Christians? Define where you need patience with just three examples and then be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord to answer. Be confident that He will!

DAY 4

HAVE PATIENCE FOR GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

"A MULE WILL LABOR TEN YEARS
WILLINGLY AND PATIENTLY FOR YOU, FOR
THE PRIVILEGE OF KICKING YOU ONCE."
-WILLIAM FAULKNER

New International Version

Psalms 37:7

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently
for him; do not fret when men succeed in
their ways, when they carry out their
wicked schemes.

DAY 4

PRAY: Oh dear God, I get so frustrated when crooked people get ahead, when liars get what they want, and when evil people get away with carrying out their wicked schemes. You have to help me to be still before You and to wait patiently for You to redeem me, so that I am okay about not succeeding when others around me are. I need to trust You more deeply and wait for You more patiently. But I can't do it without You. Please, Holy Spirit, fill me anew, give me wisdom in every situation, and patience to wait for Your perfect timing. Thank You. Amen.

REFLECT: When we get impatient, we start comparing our situations, our successes, even our lives, with other people. And often we get mad when people who aren't Christians, or are actually even wicked, get what they want while we are still waiting for our prayers to be answered. How often do we fret over comparing ourselves to the people around us and we don't match up? Do you know how to be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him to answer your prayers to change your situation, or to transform you into His likeness?

DAY 4

ACT: Commit to setting aside 30 minutes sometime this week to be completely still before the Lord, in silence, and just wait patiently for Him. Just sit still, clear your brain of all the distractions of the day and listen. Don't allow yourself to fret or to compare yourself with others, but just enjoy being in His presence and waiting on Him. If you can do it for 30 minutes, then do it again next week. And then the week after. You could make this a weekly date with God – just 30 minutes a week of being still, sitting in His presence, and waiting patiently and lovingly for Him to fill you up new and fresh. That's a key to not fretting and becoming more patient!



DAY 5

WISDOM BRINGS PATIENCE

"PATIENCE IS THE COMPANION OF
WISDOM."

-SAINT AUGUSTINE

New International Version

Proverbs 19:11

A person's wisdom yields patience; it is
to one's glory to overlook an offense.

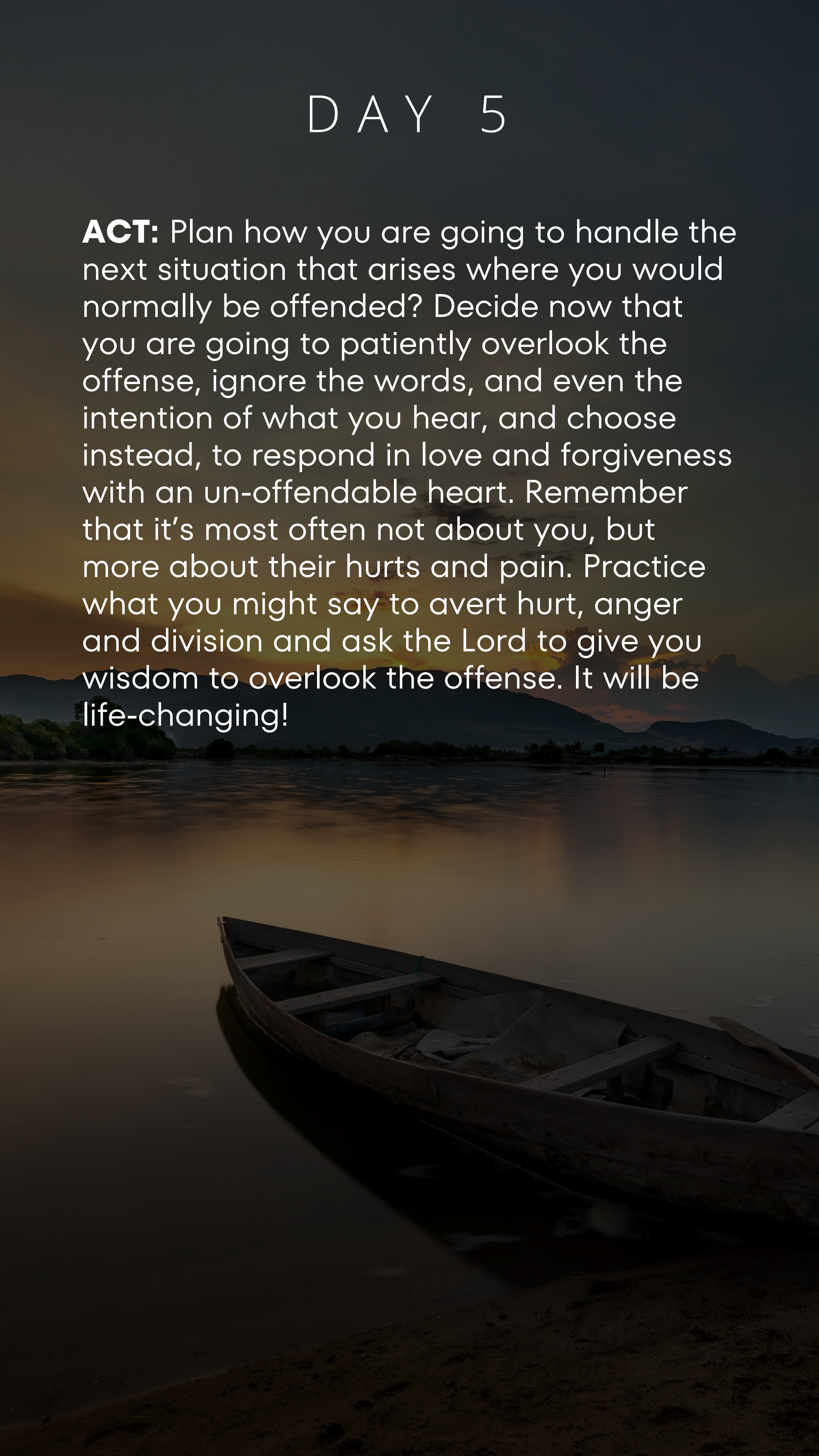
DAY 5

PRAY: Lord, what a new concept for me to hear that wisdom yields patience. I want patience, so please give me wisdom. I don't want to take offense in anything that people say to me or do to me. I want to patiently understand the hurts and brokenness of other people and wisely choose to love them and pray for them instead of taking personal offense. I know it's not about me Lord, but about You and others. That's wisdom, and I am thankful it will produce patience in me and give me an un-offendable heart. I pray in Jesus name. Amen.

REFLECT: This is a huge, supernatural concept to embrace: "A person's wisdom yields patience." What does that mean practically and how does that help you to overlook an offense against you? Could it be that patience stops us from reacting to what others say, but allows us to respond by overlooking any ill intent and just praying for them, instead. This is a verse that requires great reflection. But it will help you to choose to live with an un-offendable heart.

DAY 5

ACT: Plan how you are going to handle the next situation that arises where you would normally be offended? Decide now that you are going to patiently overlook the offense, ignore the words, and even the intention of what you hear, and choose instead, to respond in love and forgiveness with an un-offendable heart. Remember that it's most often not about you, but more about their hurts and pain. Practice what you might say to avert hurt, anger and division and ask the Lord to give you wisdom to overlook the offense. It will be life-changing!



DAY 6

BE JOYFUL, PATIENT, AND FAITHFUL

"WHAT THEN ARE WE TO DO ABOUT OUR PROBLEMS? WE MUST LEARN TO LIVE WITH THEM UNTIL SUCH TIME AS GOD DELIVERS US FROM THEM. WE MUST PRAY FOR GRACE TO ENDURE THEM WITHOUT MURMURING. PROBLEMS PATIENTLY ENDURED WILL WORK FOR OUR SPIRITUAL PERFECTING. THEY HARM US ONLY WHEN WE RESIST THEM OR ENDURE THEM UNWILLINGLY."

-A. W. TOZER

New International Version

Romans 12:11-12

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

DAY 6

PRAY: Dear Lord, I want to always have zeal and spiritual fervor serving You. Would You help me to stay joyful in hope, give me great patience when experiencing affliction, and keep me faithful in prayer? I pray that You will fill me with joy, patience, and faith, for I know that would be the most beautiful way to live. I can't do this on my own, but I need to depend on You to change my heart, my attitude and my thoughts. Thank You, in Jesus name. Amen.

REFLECT: What does it mean to be full of zeal and spiritual fervor? It could be that if we asked the Lord to help us stay joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer, that then we would never be lacking in zeal and we would keep our spiritual fervor serving Him! So, maybe zeal and fervor are not just a feeling, but also the result of trusting God in affliction and being faithful in prayer. Could being patient during times of affliction give you more zeal, or being joyful in hopeless circumstances fill you with spiritual fervor?...

DAY 6

ACT: Being patient is hard but being patient in affliction is even harder. Think of the last time you were afflicted, either physically in pain, emotionally distraught, or mentally stressed. Were you patient? Pray right now, that the Lord will prepare you for times of affliction by giving you patience in all circumstances, so that ultimately you will be full of zeal for Him and overflow with spiritual fervor in everything that you go through in life, especially during hard times. Start right now, asking for His zeal, fervor and joy!



DAY 7

BE PATIENT WITH EVERYONE

"EVERYONE FEELS BENEVOLENT IF
NOTHING HAPPENS TO BE ANNOYING
HIM AT THE MOMENT."

-C.S. LEWIS

New International Version

Ephesians 4:2-3

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

DAY 7

PRAY: God my Father, I want to be completely humble and gentle and patient. I want to bear with others in love and I want to make every effort to keep unity and peace in my family, in my community, and in my world. Would Your Spirit transform me so that I become a bond of peace? Thank You for allowing me to be used in such an amazing way in this world. I look forward to having You transform me. Selah! Amen.

REFLECT: What does it mean to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace? A mentor of mine once told me that being a peacemaker is a bloody business! It's hard to bring unity in our world, even in our own family or with our friends. It's also hard to bear with one another's burdens, struggles and brokenness. It takes tremendous patience, more than is humanly possible, to live as God wants us to. That's why we need Him desperately, at every moment, even as we make every effort, so that we can be humble, gentle and loving, yet strong, focused and intentional. If we could be patient on our own we wouldn't need God.

DAY 7

ACT: On the last day of this week, choose one person with whom you have trouble and make the decision to be the peacemaker. Have your goal be unity, regardless of how humble, gentle, and patient you have to be. If you can reunite, or reconcile, or find peace with just one tough person, then you will have achieved the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace! And remember, with God, NOTHING is impossible. Just be patient and pray as you make every effort to reach out in gentle love and patience.

