

## PATIENCE

(*ὑπομονῆς* = 'hipomonis')

*Patience, perseverance, steadfastness, constancy, endurance, a patient enduring, sustaining.*

**Hebrews 10:36, "For you have need of endurance (patience), so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise,"** The Greek word translated "endurance" describes the unique capacity to continue to bear up under difficult circumstances, not with passive complacency, but with hopeful fortitude that actively resists weariness and defeat (steadfast commitment). The verb literally means, "to remain or stay under", and is also rendered "to remain behind" in Luke 2:43 and Acts 17:14. It is also transcribed as, "to stand one's ground; persevere; or remain steadfast," and is therefore translated 'endure' in Matthew 24:13. The noun *hypomone* usually denotes courageous, steadfast, or patient "endurance" that does not lose hope in the face of obstacles, persecutions, trials, or temptations.

Our verse clearly states that we have need of "endurance." Another definition of *endurance* says it is "the act, quality, or power of withstanding hardship or stress." The word carries in it the idea of continuance. Endurance suggests the idea of continuing under resistance or the adversities of life - to carry on in spite of hardships. Patience, on the other hand, can include the calm willingness to tolerate delay. In the New Testament, the Greek word usually translated "patience" is more often associated with *patience with people*, and "endurance" or "perseverance" with *conditions*, and *circumstances*.

Most New Testament translations of *ὑπομονῆς* are either "endurance" or "perseverance," depending on the context. Often, when continuance on a course is in view, like bearing fruit or doing good works, "perseverance" is used. On the other hand, when continuance against difficult conditions is in view, "endurance" is used; but this varies with the different translations. These words are a derivative of two Greek words that mean, (1) "under" and (2) "to remain or abide." Fundamentally, they denote the idea of remaining under pressure in the sense of enduring, holding up under. Given the fallen condition of our world and its hostility to those who want to live godly lives and follow the Lord Jesus, these words are naturally used with relative frequency in the New Testament. The noun *'hipomone'* is used 32 times and the verb *'hipomeno'* 17 times.