



Life Principles Notes™

Are You on Thin Ice with God?

Summary:

You've heard the message of the gospel more than once, but has it changed your life? If you're like most Christians, you're living much the same way you always have. Why? At some point in time you made a decision about how to live. You may feel an emptiness inside at times, and you may feel some guilt. Still, you don't really believe in real consequences to your decisions.

Are you on thin ice with God? The ultimate

question is this: Does He ever run out of patience? When Moses first received the Ten Commandments, God revealed His glory and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth" (Exodus 34:6). His lovingkindness is mentioned 250 times in the Old Testament.

Key Passage: [Exodus 34:4-6](#)

Supporting Scripture: *2 Peter 3:7; 1 Timothy 1:12-16; Romans 2:4-5; Ecclesiastes 8:11.*

Scriptural Principles:

1 God is filled with lovingkindness and patience.

As we read our Bible, we see God's awesome love in every chapter. He loves us with an everlasting love. He loves nations, as He has loved the Israelites; He loves individuals, as He has loved Moses, David, and the apostle Paul. In every case, He has extended His mercy and grace through the rebellion and sinfulness of His people. If He had not been so amazingly patient, our world would have been destroyed long ago.

2 God does not overlook sin.

Even as we bow in worship and praise for His wonderful grace and lovingkindness, we must remember that His mercy does not excuse our continued sinfulness. We cannot continue in our evil ways with the false hope that God will overlook bad behavior. Some may say, "I have lived this way for years, and nothing bad has happened." Does that mean God is blind to this person's sin? Not at all. He sees everything and all our actions have consequences.

3 God eventually judges all evil.

Peter writes about mockers in the last days who sarcastically insist that nothing has changed, and that Christ will never sit on His throne of judgment. Peter, however, tells us that "by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men" (2 Peter 3:7). God is not slow about His promises, but merely patient. He does not want anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance. Although He seems to withhold judgment, in time we will stand before Him and give an account for ourselves and our actions.

4 God is patient for the purpose of our salvation.

God's patience is primarily for the purpose of giving every one of us an opportunity for salvation. For a period of time, for example, he allowed Paul to persecute the first Christians. Even as you and I notice a

sinner who seems to scoff at the ways of God, the patience of God may be extended so that this man or woman might have every opportunity to respond positively to the gospel.

5 God is patient because we have a fallen nature.

When we think of the reasons for God's patience, we also realize that He is aware that we come into this world with a nature that is already fallen and prone to rebel against Him. Since Adam and Eve were disobedient to His command in the garden of Eden, we have been born into that same disobedience and sin nature. Our Lord knows this, and He loves us. Therefore, He extends His patience because we are born with the disadvantage of a fallen nature.

6 God is patient because some are ignorant of His Word.

Another reason for the patience of God is that people are ignorant of His Word and His commandments. People are often saved without realizing much of the whole truth of the gospel. Unfortunately, many believers live for years in their ignorance. They believe that once they have attained salvation, they can simply relax. For this reason every believer should study God's Word every day as well as seek Him in prayer. Still, God looks down upon a world filled with ignorance, even ignorant believers, and withholds His judgment for a time. He is patient for us to grow as His children who walk in faith.

7 God is patient because of our weaknesses.

We are born with a fallen nature, and we are ignorant. Along with these failings, we each have some serious weakness. Someone might say, "I have no weakness," and that would reveal ignorance by its very statement! Most of us, however, are aware of some major area of struggle. What does God say about your weakness? He knows you better than anyone, He knows your weakness, and He accounts for it through His patience.

8 God is not patient forever with nations.

What about nations? Is God patient with them, too? He looks upon them just as He looks upon Israel. He loves Israel, and He loves your nation, whatever it may be. He expects individual nations to follow Him and to honor His principles. This is an important time of history for the United States, for this country has thrown out many of its godly traditions. He has blessed America in the past, but He will not be patient forever. Nations fall under His judgment, just as individuals do.

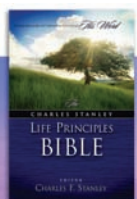
9 God is not patient forever with individuals.

Our God looks upon every person on this earth as His child. His patience, His mercy, and His love are extended to them. He is patient in order that we would come to a saving relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. He accounts for our fallen nature, our ignorance of His Word, and our personal flaws and weaknesses. Ultimately, however, each of us must stand before Him without excuse. Only through accepting the lordship of Christ, and His atoning death for our sins, will we enjoy His salvation.

Conclusion:

Is God a patient God? Yes, He is. The Scriptures assure us over and over that He is patient, merciful, and filled with lovingkindness.

Does His patience last forever? The answer is no, it will not. We need only look around us to see that rebellion has consequences,



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and sinful behavior ultimately falls under the wrath of God. What a wonderful opportunity you and I have, at this very moment, to bow before the one true God and acknowledge His lordship.

His patience comes to an end, but His forgiveness is infinite, if we will only submit. Do you feel yourself to be on thin ice with God? Are you willing to honor the patience and mercy that He has freely offered in His love for you? 🙏

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