

Hebrews 10:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Analysis

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. This verse explains why maintaining confidence (verse 35) is essential. "Ye have need of patience" (hypomonēs gar echete chreian, ὑπομονῆς γὰρ ἔχετε χρείαν) identifies patient endurance as necessary. Hypomonēs (ὑπομονῆς) means steadfast endurance, patient continuance, remaining under the load. This isn't passive waiting but active perseverance under trial.

"That, after ye have done the will of God" (hina to thelēma tou Theou poiēsantes, ἵνα τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ ποιήσαντες) indicates that receiving the promise requires completing God's will. God's will for them includes faithful endurance through suffering, persevering confession of Christ, and maintaining love for fellow believers. This isn't works-righteousness—they're already saved. Rather, genuine saving faith necessarily perseveres in obedience. The will of God for believers includes sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3), which manifests in faithful endurance.

"Ye might receive the promise" (komisēsthe tēn epangelian, κομίσησθε τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν) refers to obtaining the promised eternal inheritance. Komisēsthe means receive, obtain, carry off as reward. The promise includes eternal life, glorification, complete deliverance from sin, perfect communion with God, resurrection bodies, and reigning with Christ. This promise is certain but future—requiring patient endurance until fulfillment.

Historical Context

The concept of patient endurance for future reward was familiar to both Jewish and Greco-Roman audiences. Job's patience through suffering became proverbial in Jewish thought. Greek philosophy emphasized endurance (*karteria*) as virtue. However, Christian patience differs fundamentally—it's not merely stoic acceptance or philosophical resignation but confident hope in God's promise, enabled by His Spirit, directed toward certain future glory.

The early church needed this emphasis because many expected Christ's immediate return to deliver them from suffering. When persecution continued and Christ didn't return immediately, some wavered in faith. The author reminds them that God's timing is perfect, the promise is certain, and patient endurance is necessary for obtaining the promise.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that endurance is necessary for receiving God's promises affect your response to ongoing trials?
2. What is the difference between patiently enduring while trusting God and passively accepting circumstances while giving up?
3. In what areas of your Christian life do you most need patient endurance rather than immediate resolution?

Interlinear Text

ὑπομονῆς	γὰρ	ἔχετε	χρείαν	ἵνα	τὸ	θέλημα	τοῦ	θεοῦ
of patience	For	ye have	need	that	G3588	the will	G3588	of God
G5281	G1063	G2192	G5532	G2443		G2307		G2316
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ποιήσαντες	κομίσησθε	τὴν	ἐπαγγελίαν					
after ye have done	ye might receive	G3588	the promise					
G4160	G2865		G1860					

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 12:1 (Parallel theme): Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Psalms 37:7 (Parallel theme): Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

1 Corinthians 13:7 (Parallel theme): Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Luke 21:19 (Parallel theme): In your patience possess ye your souls.

Romans 2:7 (Parallel theme): To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

Revelation 14:12 (References God): Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Hebrews 6:15 (Covenant): And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

1 John 2:17 (References God): And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Matthew 10:22 (Parallel theme): And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Galatians 6:9 (Parallel theme): And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

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