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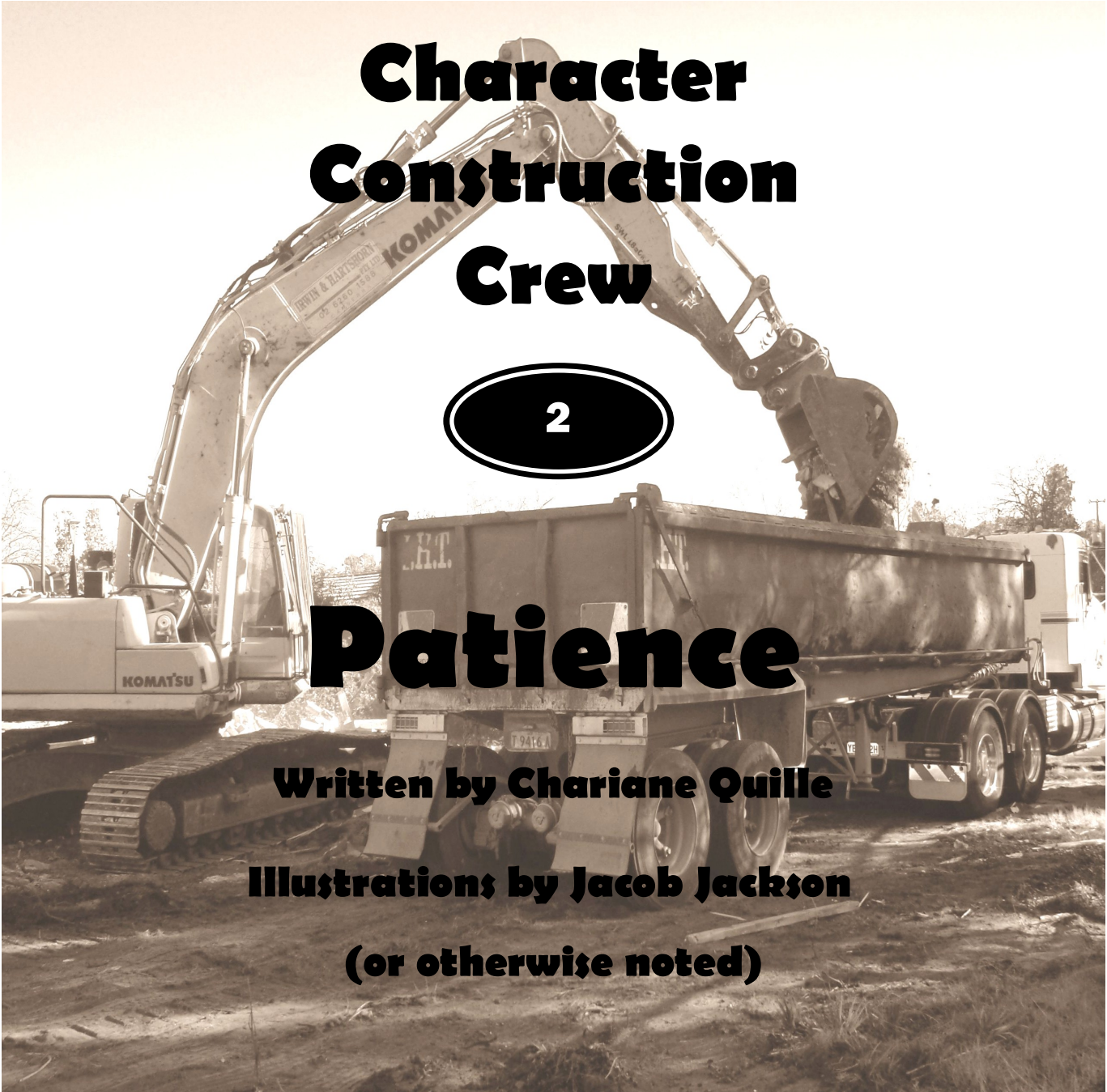
**Patience**

**Character Construction Crew**

*“Learning patience is hard... But when you learn to be a patient person you’ve learned something very important that will benefit you and others so much.”*

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# **Character Construction Crew**

**2**

# **Patience**

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**(or otherwise noted)**

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## Definitions

### **Patient:**

- \*Bearing or enduring pain, trouble, etc. without complaining or losing self-control.
- \*Refusing to be provoked or angered, as by an insult; forbearing; tolerant.
- \*Calmly tolerating delay, confusion, inefficiency, etc.
- \*Able to wait calmly for something desired.
- \*Showing or characterized by patience.
- \*Steady; diligent; persevering.

## **Longsuffering:**

\*Bearing injuries, unkind words, and trouble patiently for a long time.

\*Long and patient endurance of pain, insults, and difficulties.

### **Isaiah 26:3**

**Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.**

### **Psalms 27:14**

**Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.**

Art by Barbara Meinel Jacobs



## **Hebrews 10:35-36**

**Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.**

## Bible Story

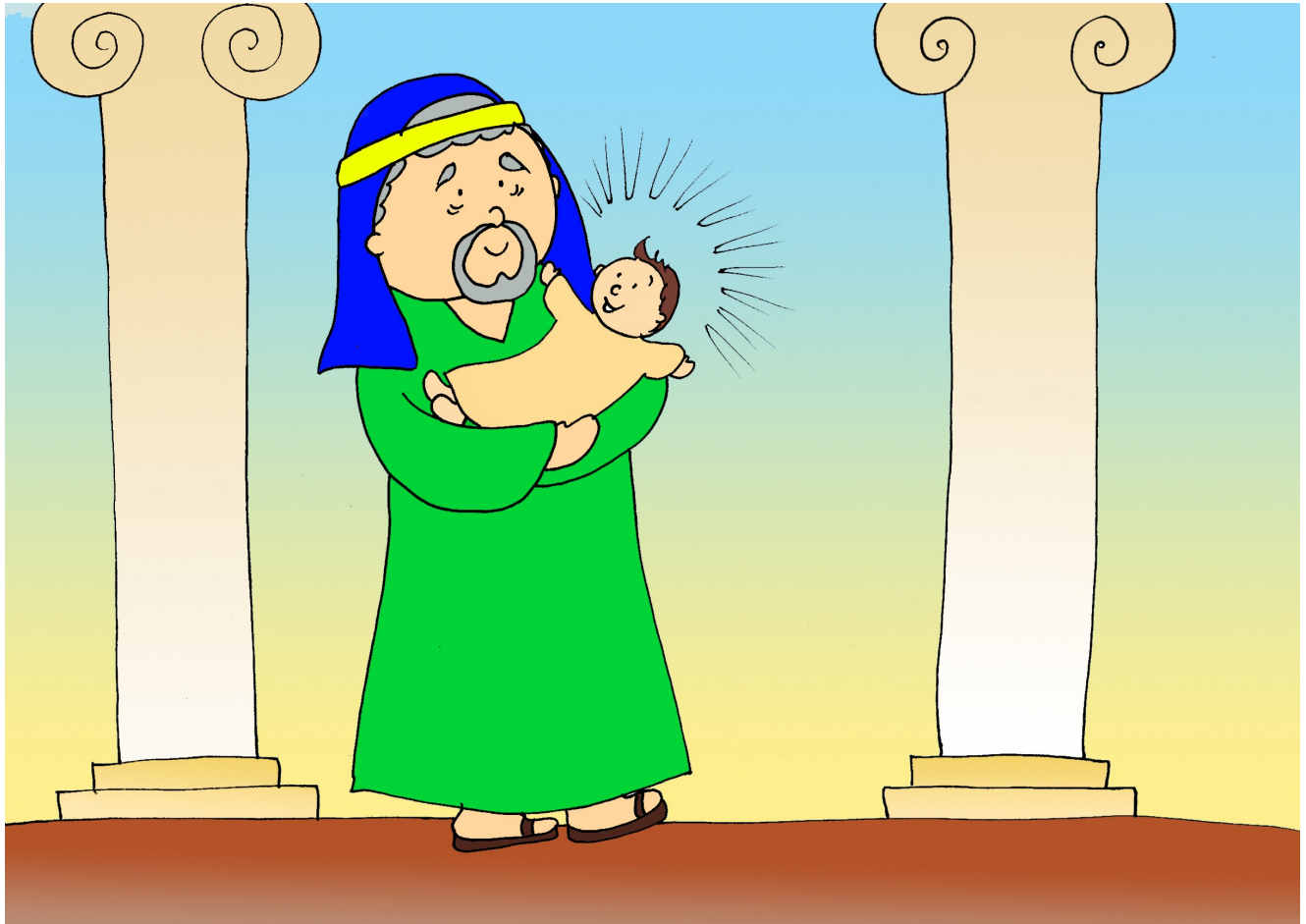
(True Story)

### Patience is Rewarded

Have you ever waited for something you wanted for a long time? Maybe you waited for a few weeks, or months, or even years. Some people wait nearly their whole life for something they are really looking forward to enjoying.

Abraham was a hundred years old when what he had been waiting to have for so long was finally given to him. At long last he and his wife Sarah, had a little boy—the baby God said He'd give to them. Talking to God about his heart's wish and believing God's words helped him to be patient.





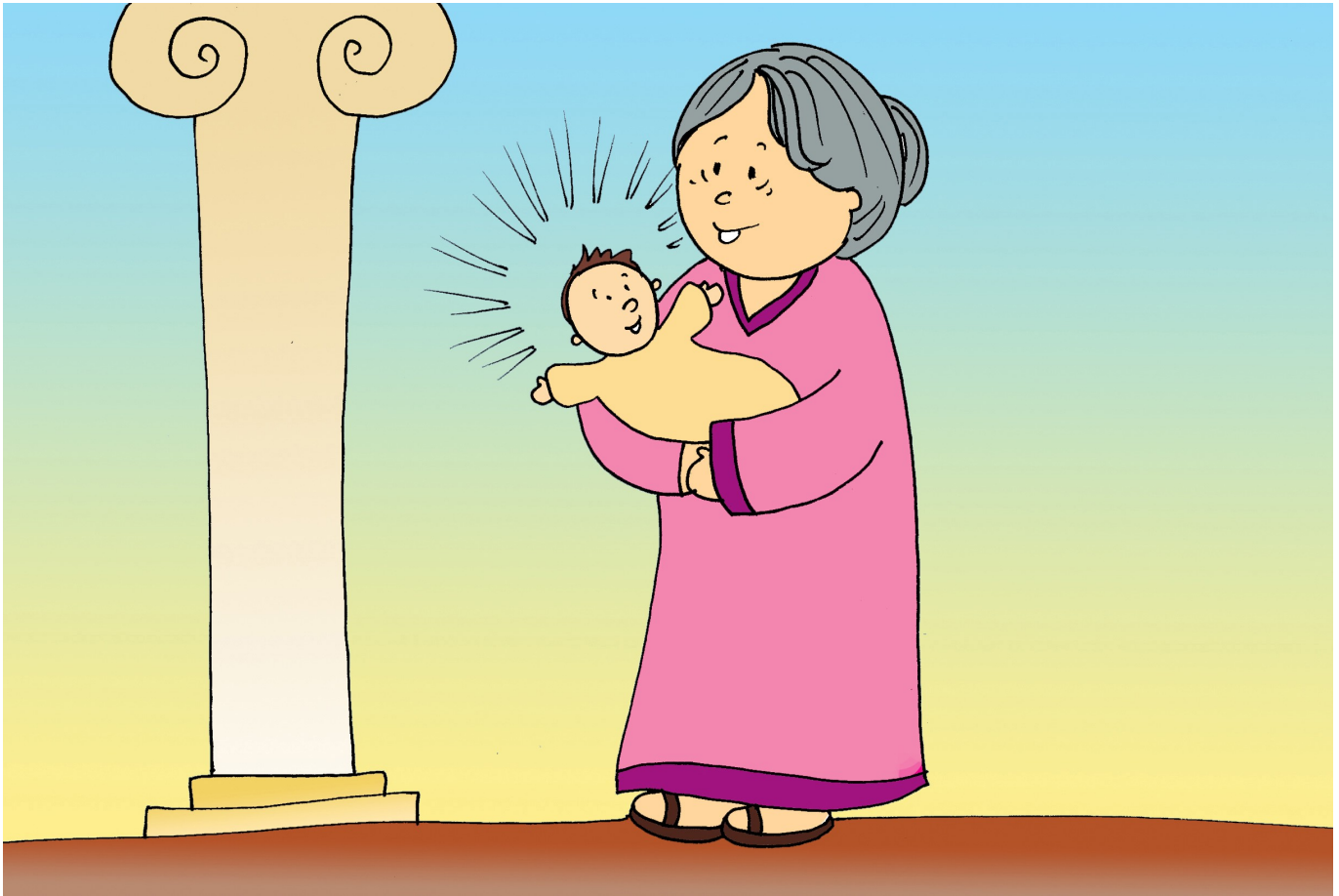
## **Ecclesiastes 7:8**

**Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.**

He also kept busy in the meantime with all the other things God wanted them to be doing. It helped them to not give up hope or get upset about how long it seemed to be taking.

Simeon was another very old man, who was waiting for a special baby. It wasn't a child for himself and his wife that he was waiting for. God promised Simeon that he'd get to see Jesus, God's only son, the Saviour of the world. He was very old when it finally happened.

One day Joseph and Mary and baby Jesus came into the temple. God told Simeon that the baby they held was God's Son, the Messiah. At long last Simeon's wish and desire had come true. He was glad he'd waited. It took time, but it felt wonderful when it finally happened.



Art by Fleur Celeste/ Coloured by Mia

**Luke 21:19**

**In your patience possess ye your souls.**

Anna was a very old woman, who had also waited so very long to see Jesus, God's son, on Earth. That same day, she also saw Him, held in Mary's arms, and knew at last she'd gotten to see Who she'd been longing to see. Salvation had come to Earth.

In the Book of Proverbs it says, "When the desire cometh, it is a tree of life." (Proverbs 13:12)

Sometimes the best things take a long time to become a reality, but when at last the time is right, we're so glad we waited, and didn't give up hope.

**Acts 19:36**

**Ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly.**

## Character Construction Crew Stories

(Imaginary story)

### **Annie and the Truck Driver**

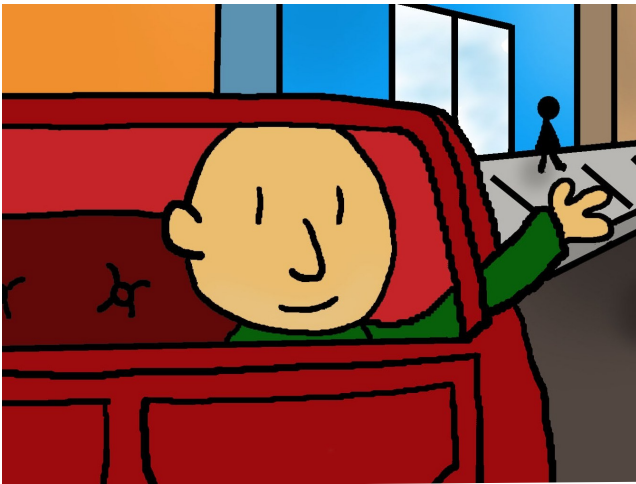
Charley Churrusting revved up the engine of the big old flat bed truck. On it he'd safely secured a small digger and two bobcats. They were no longer needed at the worksite. These vehicles were now to be rented out at a new site in another town.

But as he was turning the key to get its motor going, a saying he'd often heard said seemed to come to him. It was to be a clue or key to a smooth and happy day. "Slow and steady wins the race."

He often thought of it, as in his line of work, nothing could be done all that fast. It took a patient

plodding along, one step at a time. And if things weren't done just right their work wouldn't be solid and trustworthy. Today, however, he was to learn something new about this saying.

Finally, after several tries, the motor of the old truck had started. It always took a little effort. But Charley Churrusting was soon on his way. He looked forward to the drive. It was to be a beautiful one, through farm lands and with a good view of the mountains.



It wouldn't be called a quiet ride, as the truck's engine was fairly loud, but it was at least a bit calmer than the clamour at the worksite.

Photo by: Robin Yamaguchi



## **Luke 8:15**

**But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.**

Charley Churrusting turned on the radio, just in time it seemed, to hear his favourite hymn being sung. “His Eye is on the Sparrow”. It was a good reminder, that no matter what happened today, or at all in his life, he was being watched over lovingly, by the Lord who made him.

There seemed to be plenty of things that tried to get him down, or steal away his confidence in the Lord’s ever-faithful care, but this song seemed to wash them away. He sang along with the cheery words: “I sing because I’m happy! I sing because I’m free! His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me!”

Just then his mind was alerted to slow down, and he eased the brakes just in time, as the car up the road a bit came to a halt, with lights flashing. It had broken down.



Had Charley Churrusting been keen to rush along, thinking only of the destination and where he wanted to go, he might not have stopped so readily.

An accident on the road would have cost him much more time and loss and difficulty, than merely stopping for a while, until he could get past the car and drive smoothly again.

He got out of the truck, while leaving its engine running, and went to see the driver of the car.

“Hi, how’s it going?” he said in his friendly manner. “Can I be of some assistance?”



Photo by: S.d.B

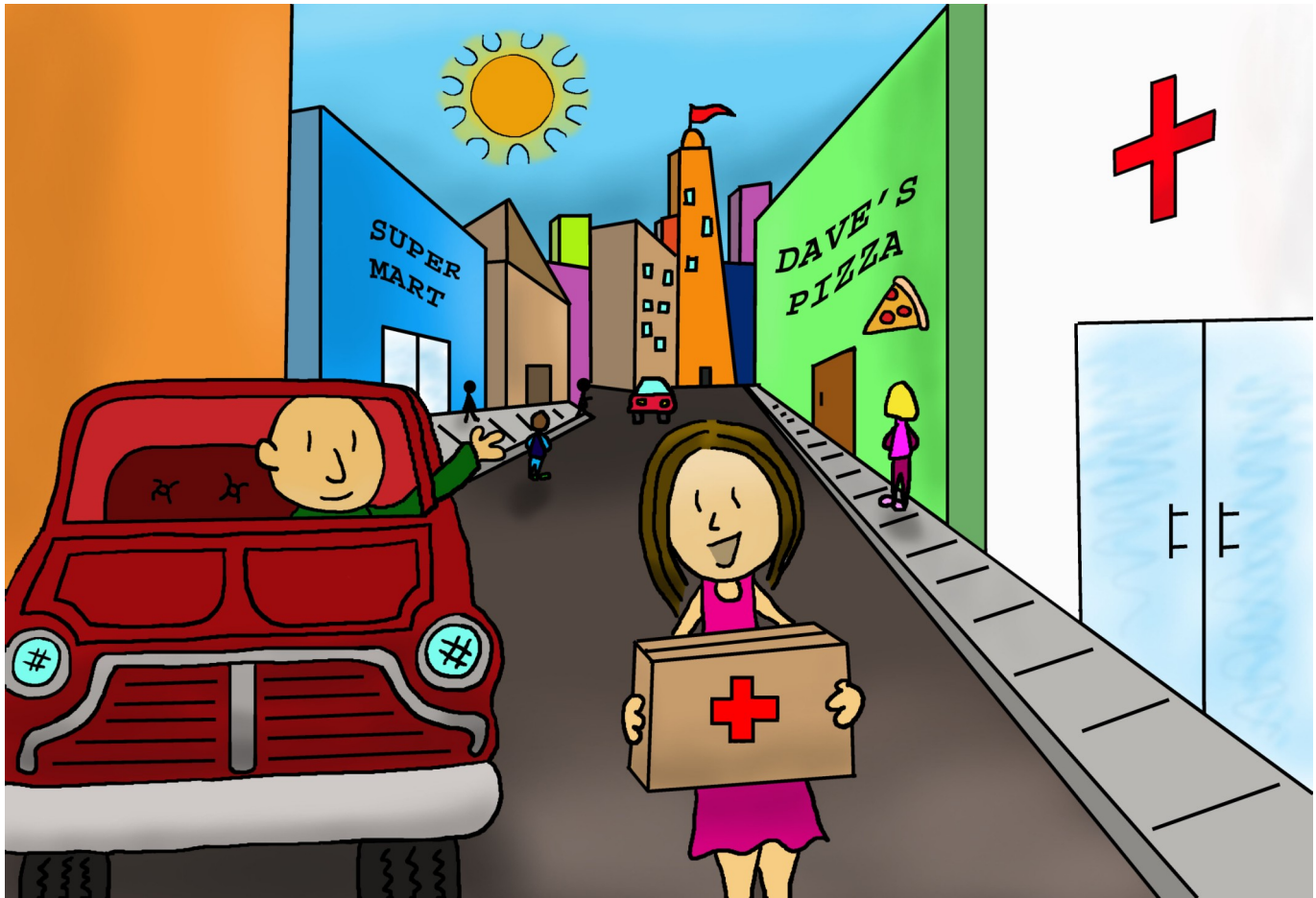
“Well, I don’t have far to travel, but at this rate, I’ll never make it in time!” the car driver said.

“Where are you going?” Charley Churrusting asked.

“I needed to meet with Dr. Jones at his house. It’s only a 15 minute drive there. He’s doing a project today helping others—those who can’t afford to pay a regular doctor. I have in my car some donated supplies I was going to bring him for his project. He needs them now,” Annie, the car driver said with dismay.

“Well, as I always like to say, ‘slow and steady wins the race.’ I know it’ll work out. Look, I’ll call for a tow truck. I know a good one too. And if you’d like





I can take you now to the town. It's not exactly where I was going. I need to go a bit farther, but I'm making good time, and think I can afford a little detour for such a good cause.

“I’ll make some room here in the cab for the supplies you’re bringing. Sound good?”

Charley Churrusting offered.

“Oh, that would be so kind of you. Perhaps the car could be towed to the town garage. I can wait there then after I bring the supplies to Dr. Jones while the car gets looked at.

“If it’s something that needs a long time to fix, I have a friend there that I’m sure can drive me home later on. Thank you so much for your kind offer. I’m very grateful for it—and so will those folks be who are being helped today,” Annie responded.

They loaded the supplies into the flat bed truck, and were on their way. Bart, the tow truck driver, would be on his way shortly.

“Sometimes things happen that seem to slow us down, or even stop us from getting to where we are going, or finishing what needs to be done, and that’s tough! But I figure it’ll make it twice as hard if I let those seeming disruptions and bothersome circumstances get me down as well.

“So if I just stay calm, and set my eyes upwards to the One Who is actually in charge of my life and is caring for me—Jesus— then I can take things in stride more.

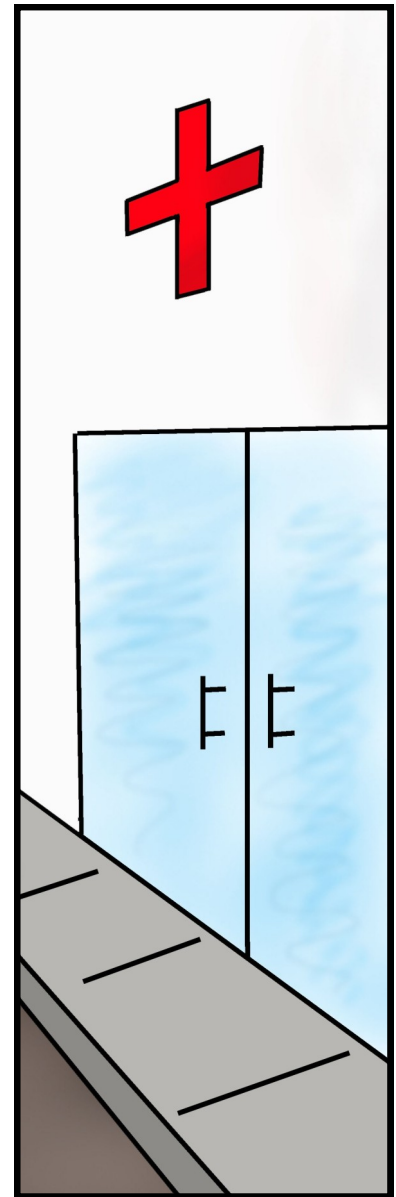
“Instead of thinking so earnestly about where I’m trying to go, or what I’m trying to accomplish, I change my pace and my focus, and see what I can learn, or who I can help.”

Charley Churrusting was explaining how he coped with patience-trying situations.

“It’s hard being patient!” Annie added. It was all too easy for her to fret, to get upset, and in the difficult moments make others feel bad through unkind words. It was something she often wanted to do better in.

She wanted to be able to cope with delays and what she called “road blocks”—the things that got in the way of her reaching her goals. She always had lots to do and was involved in several charitable projects.

“Well, look at it this way,” Charley Churrusting said with a smile,



“there are two ways to deal with the troubles and problems that each and every one of us has. We can’t make the problems disappear or never enter our day.

“People will be people. Problems will come. Equipment will break down. Delays will try our patience. We and others will get sick or hurt. So we can choose to look at the problems with our eyes, and mind, and heart, so filled with the negative aspects of the situation, and how we feel about it, or we can immediately turn to the Solution Giver. When I do the latter I never regret it.”

“Now, I don’t always make that right decision, but when I forget or delay in doing it, I always have a tough go of things. So, let’s take today, for example.

“Neither of us planned for this misfortune or delay with your car breaking down. If we focus on the good, however, and pray to see what God might have in mind for allowing it to happen, things might begin to look up.”

Charley Churrusting was enjoying sharing some of the things he'd learned over time. It felt good not to be driving alone, and to have a new friend to talk with.

### **James 5:7-8**

**Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.**



Annie took his advice and stopped for a moment, and then said, “I think this might have happened to teach me patience, and that when we pray, God works things out for us. When my car stopped working at first I was real bothered, and worried about what to do next. You came along then, and have taught me some good things. I’m glad for it now. God worked things out better in the end—and I’m going to choose to have faith that everything else about the car and Dr. Jones’ project will work out well too.”

Charley Churrusting added, “And since life is all about learning most of all, not just about getting things done, we can be sure all kinds of experiences will lace our life and pop up here and there to help us do just that—learn new things.

“So when something unexpected, disappointing, discouraging, difficult, not the norm, saddening, or hard to cope with happens, we can look at it as if we are going up one more step on the ladder of learning. We can think of it as winning, one way or the other. Either we make fast and good progress and move forward, or we learn something new and move up higher, gaining new knowledge and closeness to the Lord as well. Either way it’s good.”

Just then they arrived at the town, and Annie got out with the supplies she’d brought.

“I’ll be fine from here. Everything in this town is just a short walk away. Thanks so



much for the ride, and for the chat. They both helped me. Have a good day!” she said while leaving.

“Bye then, and you have a good day too!” Charley Churrusting replied.

It had been a nice ride, and it felt good to be able to help someone else.

“It may have taken longer than expected, but I’m not late,” Charley Churrusting thought as he finally pulled into the worksite to deliver the digger and bobcats.



“I think it’s when we have faith in our heart, knowing things are under God’s control, that we can manage to have the greatest amount of patience.”

He sang the chorus once again, “His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He’s watching me!” He knew it would be a good day, one way or another.

**Hebrews 6:15**

**After he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.**

(Imaginary story)

## Stop and Go

Marvin Merryglad whistled a happy tune as he climbed into his pickup truck, well loaded with supplies for that day's assignment. Then he noticed that one of his tyres was low on air.



“Hmmm. I’ll need to get that checked at the nearest service station I see. I think I can make it fine on the road till then.”

Off he drove to get things fixed right.

That wasn’t the only trouble he encountered, however.

Next, his bottle of water spilled all over the seat, as it slipped out of his hand. He managed to salvage some of it, and found something to sit on top of to keep his pants mostly dry.

“My windscreen could have used some of that water it seems! Hard to see out of it because it’s so dirty,” he thought aloud, as he sprayed the windscreen with the cleaning button. But as he turned the windscreen wipers on, nothing happened.

“They must be jammed or something. I don’t remember having this problem before.



“Well, I guess I haven’t used them in awhile. It’s taking a long time for the rain to grace our part of the world. S’pose I don’t have anything to grumble about.

“I’ve got what I need. I just don’t particularly enjoy having things breaking down. I need things that are dependable,” Marvin Merryglad said.

His tune and whistle were long forgotten, he scanned the road’s edge hoping to see a service station as soon as possible.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.**

Finally he noticed one, but when he got there it had a sign saying it was closed.

He sighed, and kept on driving as best as he could. At long last, at the second service station he spotted he was able to get some of his mini-troubles taken care of. The tyre got air, the windscreen got cleaned, and the wipers adjusted. It turned out to be something minor, thankfully.



### **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

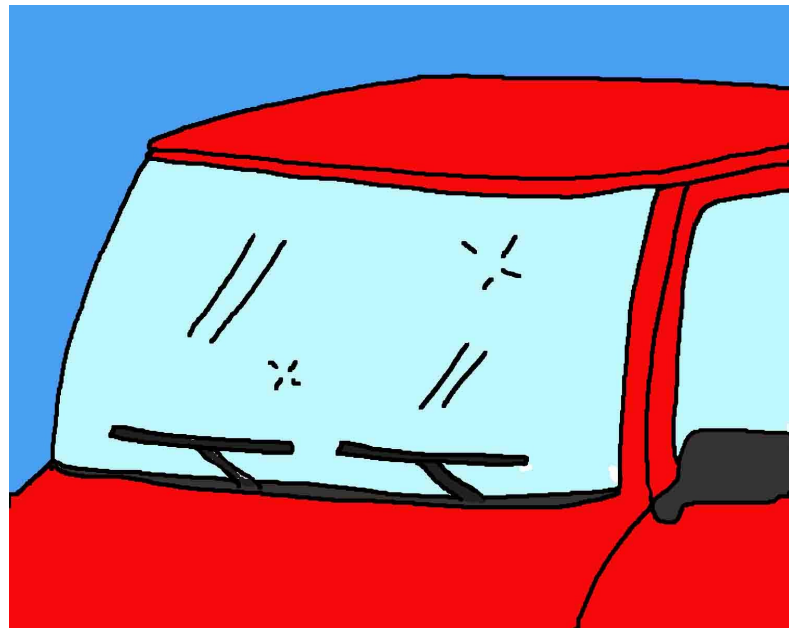
Charity suffereth long, and is kind; ... is not easily provoked, ... Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.



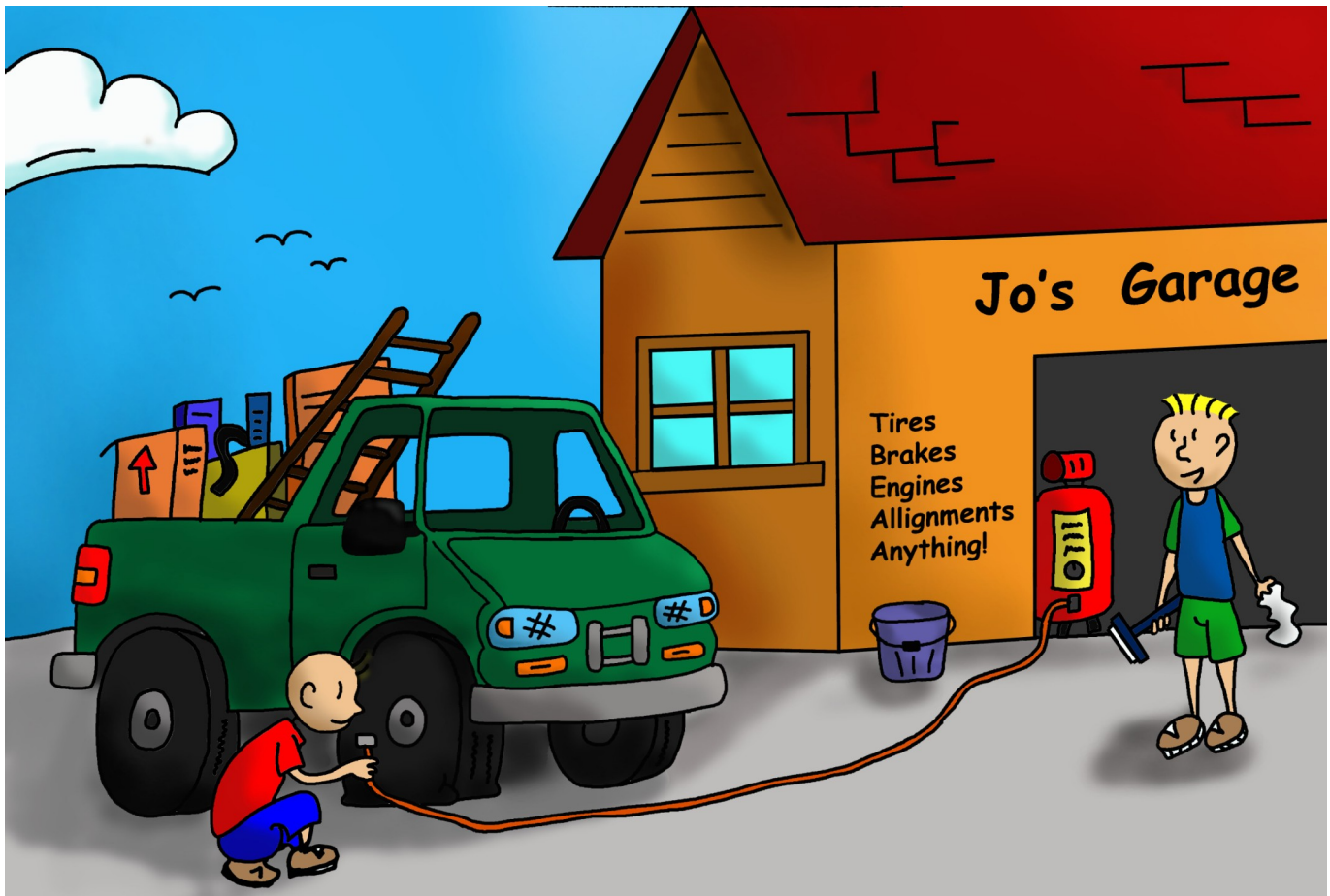
Happily he got back in his truck, and on his way again. “Well, I can’t do much about a wet seat, but at least that won’t affect my driving safety.”

He chose not to remain bothered by it, and to be glad for the other things that got worked out so soon.

“I guess there is a time to be patient—like when things keep happening that are not our favourite, things that bother us, things that we can’t do anything about anyway, and we just need to keep having peace and joy no matter what.



“There’s also a time to not wait, but to get things done and taken care of as soon as possible—like the things that needed to get fixed right away on my truck.



“I’m glad I didn’t have to wait too long for those, and it wouldn’t have been good to put them off, waiting for some other time. That wouldn’t have been wise or safe. There’s a time for both,” Marvin Merryglad realised.

“And even that takes patience too—getting those things fixed right away kept me waiting while the repair man worked on them.”

## **2 Corinthians 6:4,6**

**But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, ... by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost.**



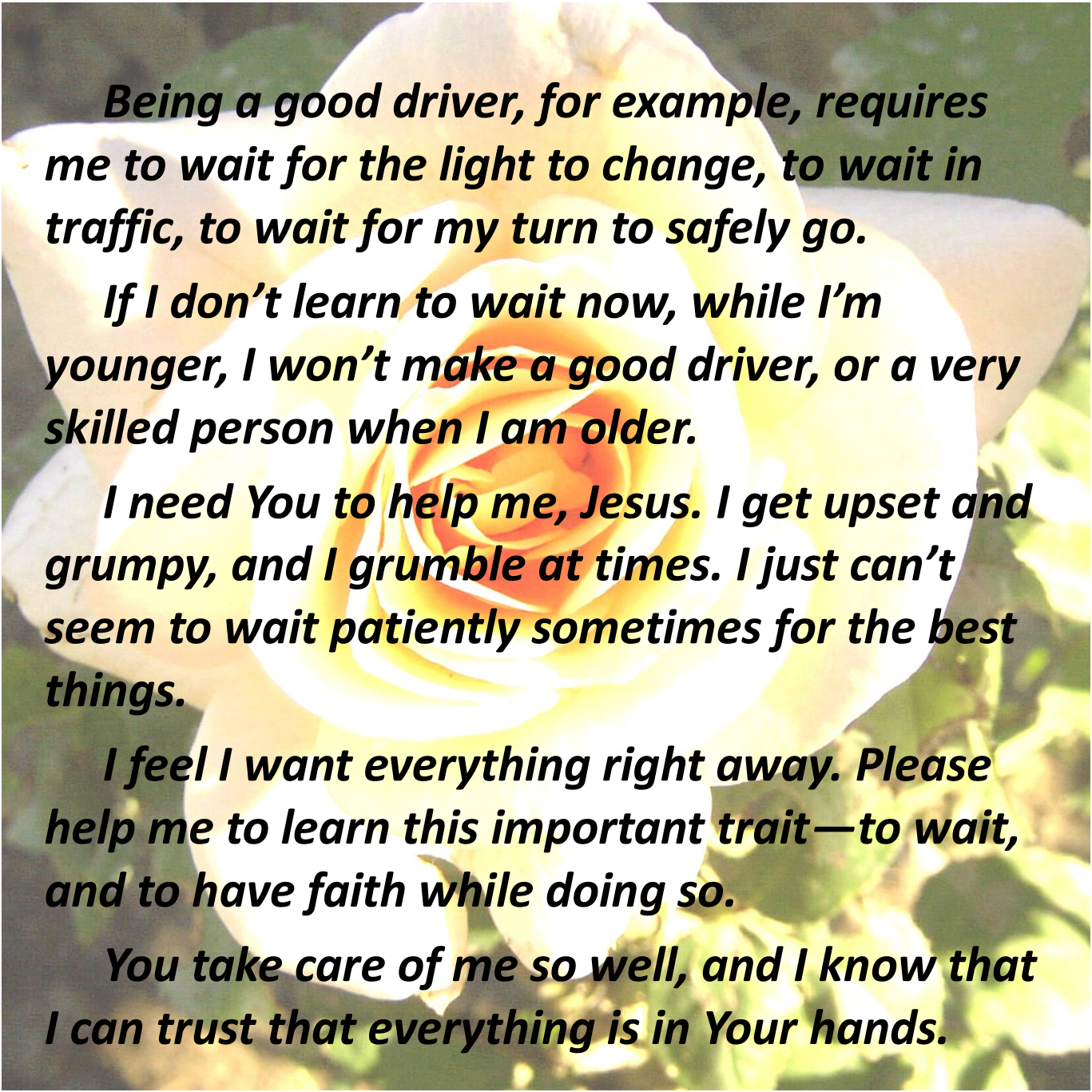
## *A Prayer*

**Dear Jesus,**

***Sometimes it's so hard to wait. I have to wait for so many things. I have to wait for a turn. I have to wait to grow older. I have to wait for permission to do certain things. I have to wait for coming events.***

***Even waiting for my birthday takes so very long. I just wish I could have everything right at the time when I feel like I most want it.***

***I know that learning to wait can teach me to have patience, and patience will help make me a wiser and more able adult, able to do things I couldn't do if I wasn't patient.***



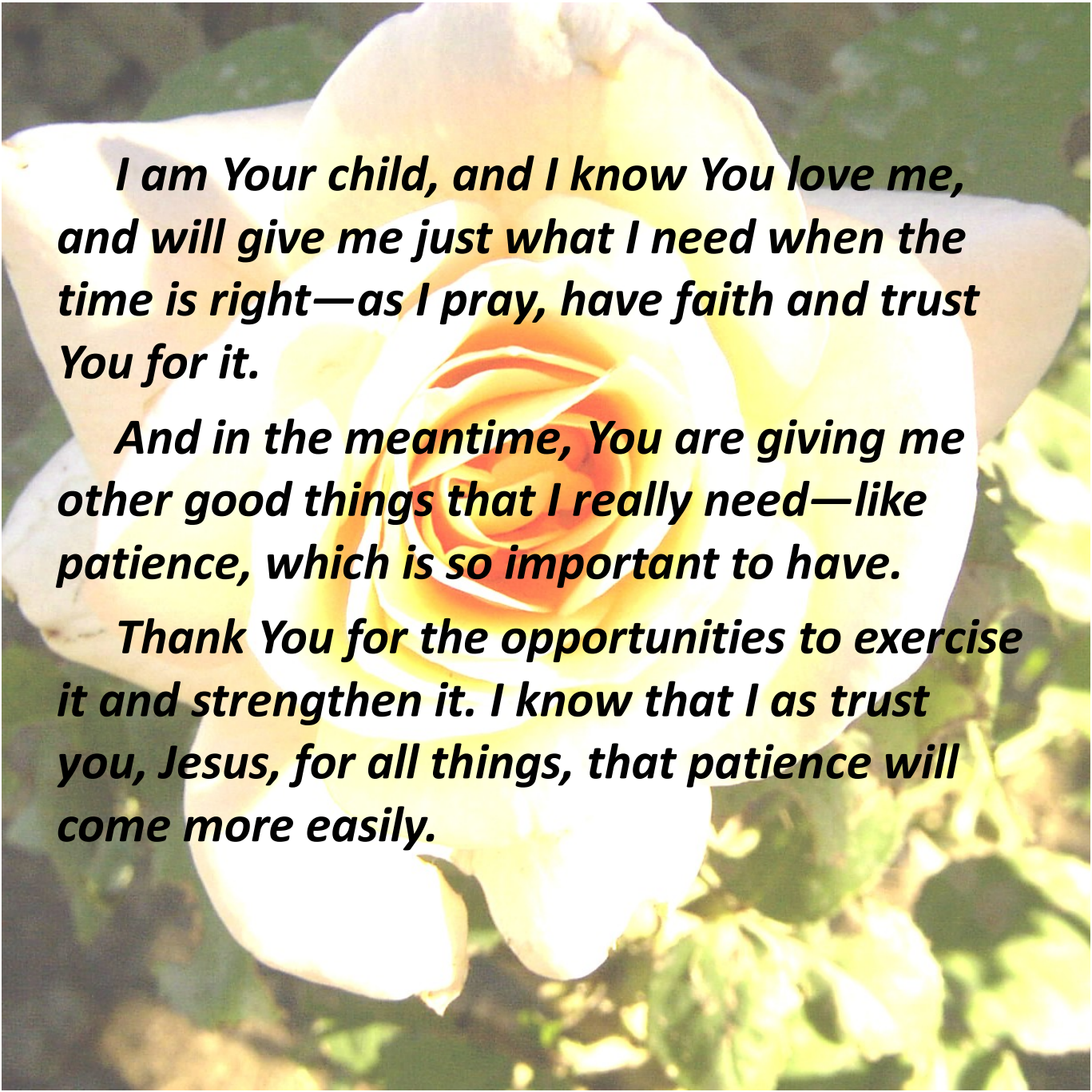
***Being a good driver, for example, requires me to wait for the light to change, to wait in traffic, to wait for my turn to safely go.***

***If I don't learn to wait now, while I'm younger, I won't make a good driver, or a very skilled person when I am older.***

***I need You to help me, Jesus. I get upset and grumpy, and I grumble at times. I just can't seem to wait patiently sometimes for the best things.***

***I feel I want everything right away. Please help me to learn this important trait—to wait, and to have faith while doing so.***

***You take care of me so well, and I know that I can trust that everything is in Your hands.***



***I am Your child, and I know You love me, and will give me just what I need when the time is right—as I pray, have faith and trust You for it.***

***And in the meantime, You are giving me other good things that I really need—like patience, which is so important to have.***

***Thank You for the opportunities to exercise it and strengthen it. I know that I as trust you, Jesus, for all things, that patience will come more easily.***

## When Mummy was Growing Up...

(True story)

### The Bicycle

There is a saying that says, “Good things come to those who wait.” So being patient helps you to not only get what you are hoping for, at the right time and in the right way, but also a lot of other good things included, that are equally important.

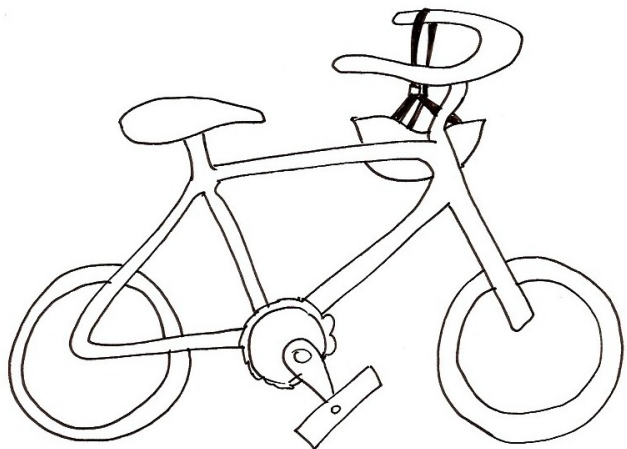
For example if you really want a bicycle, but it hasn't worked out yet, and is just not yet possible, having a positive attitude while waiting and praying for a bicycle helps you to enjoy what you do have now. It makes others glad to be around you because you are cheerful, instead of discontent and grumbling.

Your attitude of faith also pleases Jesus, which makes Him want to give you a really good bike!

It reminds me of what happened once when I really wanted a turn on our bicycle. We only had one bike and my brothers and I would take turns with it.

My younger brother was on it, and I wanted a turn. I asked him for it, and was having a very hard time waiting. I wasn't asking him nicely, but rather demanding a turn immediately.

My kind brother seeing how much I wanted it rode it over to me, got off, and calmly gave it to me.



Art by: Fleur Celeste



I had already let myself get upset, and was being so very impatient, so I didn't even say thank you. Instead I continued speaking unkindly and angrily, telling him that he should have turned the bike around for me, so it was facing the right direction for me to ride it.

My brother didn't even get upset, or say anything back at all. He patiently helped me turn the bicycle around like I wanted. But the Lord wasn't happy with my anger, impatience, and the unkind way I was talking to my brother. So Jesus allowed me to get hurt.

There was something sharp on the bicycle, for some reason. It seemed there was a piece of metal that was sticking out of the bicycle and it cut the back of my leg badly while I tried to get on.

I still have a scar on my leg from it. At that moment when I got cut, I knew exactly why it happened—to calm me down, to teach me to not act in that angry, impatient way. Mummy helped me to bandage it up, and I couldn't ride the bike then—not for a long while until it healed.

So, my patient, kind brother got to keep riding, and I who wanted it so much, and wouldn't wait or talk nicely, had to miss out for a long time, due to the little accident. Impatience cost me what I wanted rather than getting to have it. It just didn't work.

**Proverbs 16:32**

**He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty.**

(True story)

## The White Shoes

I was always very short and rather small—at least compared to my friends. One of my best friends when I was a child was taller and bigger, even though she was younger than I was. It seemed to take so long to grow up.

Each new birthday seemed to take a long time to come. But I learned as each year passed, that eventually whatever age I wanted to be at, did happen. It just took time.

I was eight years old when I decided that I wanted to be 14 years old—but it seemed so very long away.

<i>February 2014</i>						
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17	18	1	20	21	22	23
24	25	2	27	28		

I thought, “Even just getting to be 11 years old will take so long!”

However, as each day passed, as they continue to do, and after just the right amount of time had gone by I had at last reached 11 years old.



When I was that age, someone gave our family a whole pile of donated shoes, to choose from. We’d take what we needed and then pass the rest on to others who needed them.

I chose out some that fit me, and was very happy about them. There was also a pair I really liked—white, leather slip on shoes, with an edge that looked like lace—but they were too big.

When you are growing, day-by-day, something that is a bit too big may fit you one day. If the shoes

had been too small, as some other shoes were, there wouldn't have been anything I could do to make them fit. So to get to wear these special shoes only required time and growth.

I kept these shoes, trying them on every several months to see if they fit yet. I think I expected to grow into them a bit faster than I did. It took me four years till at last I could use them!

When I was 14 years old, these special, saved white shoes finally fit me. It was a long wait, but in time it did happen.

I grew to be both the age I wanted most to be, and the shoes could finally be used. It took time and patience, but eventually it all happened.



## From Jesus to Us

Has there ever been something that you really wanted so much that you had a hard time waiting for it? You thought about it, dreamed about it, and couldn't stop talking about it with your friends? It can be so hard to wait.

That's not the only time you need patience. There are other times, when what you want isn't just an item or an event, but when you have the urge to say something, or to act in a certain way, and it isn't the best thing at the time to do or say, and might make things harder for others, or even for yourself.

These are also times to exercise patience—to wait for the right time to say or do what you are

Photo by: Chariane Quille



## **Ephesians 4:2**

**With all lowliness and meekness, with  
longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.**

feeling, or to wait till the feeling passes, if it's something that should not be acted on—like anger, or wanting something for yourself that is not best for you to have then.

There are lots of times when patience is just what is needed, rather than the satisfaction of having what you're wanting. And it's hard! It can feel like it's one of the hardest things to do at the time.

It's a difficult skill to learn because it means giving up or going without what you might be wanting, or wishing to have right then and there—

**Proverbs 14:17**

**He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly.**



whether it's something you can touch and hold, or see and experience, or something of the heart that you want to feel.

It takes great strength of character to wait; to hold your tongue; or go without for a while; to bear with the actions and words of others and not get upset.

To listen to others' thoughts and feelings before saying your own; to see something of yours get lost or broken accidentally by others and take it calmly. To not feel you have to be always on the go, but can sit and relax when you have to wait.

These are a few examples of exercising patience.

So why would anyone want to be patient? What are the consequences of not waiting or keeping control of your temper, words, actions and wishes?

The end result is that you miss out on the things that you most want.

Imagine a pilot learning to fly an airplane. He might just want to get to the fun part real quickly, to finally be up in the air. But if he doesn't take the time to study and learn about all the gauges and dials, to get to know all it takes to fly the plane safely, how to deal with weather conditions, how to



Photo by: Chariane Quille

land, and all that he needs to know, he won't be prepared or skilled enough to do the job, and things won't go well.

If you want to have friends, and enjoy fun times together, it may not happen if you aren't able to wait for your turn. To have fun with others you'll also need to learn to be tolerant of others' mistakes and to forgive their blunders or the times things aren't just the way you'd like them to be. It works well to patiently wait to say what you are feeling, until it's the right time, and to say it in a kind way.

Learning patience is hard, and comes through having times of not getting all you want at just the time you want to have it. But when you learn to be a patient person you've learned something very important that will benefit you and others so much.

Photo by: Curtis Peter van Gorder



**“Slow and steady wins the race.”**

## Discussion Questions

\*Is there something you've wanted for a long while, and are still waiting for now?

\*What's something that others do that bothers you, and it takes you having patience, waiting for them to grow past it, breaking the habit, and learning not to do it?

\*When there is something that you all-of-a-sudden just really want to do, right now, and you can hardly wait for a second—but it's not working out to do it immediately—what can you do to help yourself bravely and patiently wait or forgo it if necessary. What things could help you in a time like that?

\*There's a saying, "Patience is doing something while you are waiting." When are times that you often need to be patient, and what sorts of things can you do while waiting?

*(For example:*

*for a turn with a toy—  
choose something else to  
do;*

*for your dinner—help to  
prepare it or wash some  
dishes;*

*for others to be ready for a  
trip out, when you are the  
first done—read a book, etc.)*



## Ideas of When to Apply

*When are some good times to practice being patient and having long suffering?*

- \*Waiting in line for a ride.
- \*When you need someone to help you, and they are busy helping others or doing something else first.
- \*When others keep doing something that you don't like, and you've already told them not to before.
- \*Waiting to grow taller, or become a certain age, so you can enjoy something you are hoping will happen then.

\*Waiting for a garden to grow.

\*When you are sick and hurting, and it seems to take so long to be healed.



Photo by: Jon Berg



- \*When teaching someone how to do something that they don't seem to be able to learn too easily—but you learned how to do it well, and it wasn't hard for you.
- \*Being stuck in traffic with your family, and you need to be somewhere by a certain time.
- \*If someone hurts you by mistake, or spills food or a drink on you by bumping you accidentally.
- \*Waiting for special days or events.

*Can you think of some other examples?*