

29: HOLD THE LINE: PATIENCE THAT COMPLETES A MAN

By [John Leavy](#)

In [Week 6: Character Under Pressure](#)

3 Min read



“And let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” — James 1:4

On the trail, impatience is expensive. Ever pack in a hurry and realize later you left your rain gear or water purification tablets behind? Ever ignore a trail marker to take a shortcut, only to find yourself bushwhacking your way back to the trail? Ever step too quickly into a river, only to discover a slippery rock that sends you into the cold water? There’s a trail principle that says, *“The man who walks with patience finishes stronger than the man who rushes every mile.”*

James 1:4 says something most men resist: **let patience have its perfect work.** Don’t manage it. Don’t rush it. Let it work. Somehow, men see the word *patience* as an obstacle, a weakness, an interruption. Men like movement, progress, and visible results. We’re made to reach the trail’s end.

But here's what often goes unsaid. Impatience is usually **disguised fear**—fear that we're falling behind, fear that God isn't moving fast enough, fear that if we don't force the outcome, nothing will happen. So we push. We manipulate timelines. We pressure conversations. We try to accelerate growth—in ourselves and in others.

The trail exposes that mindset. Mountains shape men slowly. Muscles build over miles, not minutes. Character forms through repetition, not shortcuts. James tells us patience completes a man. That means the very delays we resist may be the tools God uses to finish what He started.

Patience is not weakness. **It is restrained confidence in God's timing.**

APPLICATION

Patience takes practice. You need to stop interrupting the process. That's harder than it sounds. Many men sabotage growth by refusing to sit in tension. We rush ahead instead of seeking the Holy Spirit. We get frustrated and change jobs too quickly. Abandon disciplines too early. Walk away from hard conversations before clarity forms.

On the trail, you can't command the weather to clear up. You can't tell the trail to level out. You can only adjust your pace and keep walking. Patience trains a man to endure conditions he cannot control without losing his footing.

The unsaid struggle is that patience often feels like **invisibility**. No applause. No measurable progress. Just daily obedience in small things. Yet that is where depth forms. When prayers seem unanswered, and you keep praying. When progress feels slow, and you keep showing up. When change in someone you're discipling crawls instead of sprints—and you stay present.

James says patience makes you **complete, lacking nothing**. That's strong language. It suggests that without patience, something essential remains unfinished in us. Skill alone won't complete you. Influence won't complete you. Even knowledge won't complete you. But endurance under God's shaping hand will.

Over time, patience produces steadiness. Your reactions soften. Your decisions mature. Your confidence shifts from outcomes to obedience. And quietly, without spectacle, you become the kind of man others can walk behind **on a long trail**.

LIVE IT OUT

This week, resist the urge to rush a process God has not finished. Stay in the conversation. Keep the discipline. Hold your ground when progress feels slow. Pray, "Lord, finish Your work in me." Let patience shape your pace, and trust that steady steps build lasting strength.

PRAY THIS...

“Father, give me the strength to learn Your patience instead of rushing ahead on the trail.”

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*Information lays the foundation—
Practice builds the man.*

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