

## LORD GIVE ME PATIENCE NOW!

A young father in a supermarket was pushing a shopping cart with his little son, who was strapped in the front. The little boy was fussing, irritable, and crying. The other shoppers gave the pair a wide berth because the child would pull cans off the shelf and throw them out of the cart. The father seemed to be very calm; as he continued down each aisle, he murmured gently: "Easy now, Donald. Keep calm, Donald. Steady, boy. It's all right, Donald."

A mother who was passing by was greatly impressed by this young father's solicitous attitude. She said, "You certainly know how to talk to an upset child—quietly and gently."

And then bending down to the little boy, she said, "What seems to be the trouble, Donald?"

"Oh no," said the father. "He's Henry. I'm Donald."

Father's (and Mother's), need a lot of things to be good parents, and "patience" may be near the head of the list. Someone has said, "You can learn many things from children, for example, how much patience you have." Children have a way of wearing our patience thin. I'm convinced that most child abuse can be attributed, first, to drug and alcohol influences of the adults, and second, to lack of patience when a child is screaming out of control.

The Bible praises patience as a fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22) which should be produced for all men (1 Thessalonians 5:14).

Consider three steps to developing patience, with children, and everyone else.

1. Thank God: A person's first reaction is usually "Why me?", but the Bible says to rejoice in God's will (Philippians 4:4; 1 Peter 1:6).
2. Seek His purposes: Sometimes, God puts people in difficult situations in order to witness. Other times, He might allow a trial for sanctification of character.
3. Remember His promises (such as Romans 8:28-29).

Let's remember what Saint Augustine said, "Patience is the companion of wisdom."