

## Our Patient and Active Missionary God

### Scripture Reading — 2 Peter 3:8-15

*The Lord ... is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9 —*

In his mission, God exercises a patient love as well as a vigorous engagement to defeat Satan and the forces of evil. Already in Genesis 3:15 God's promise looks ahead to Jesus' victory over Satan.

We grow impatient and sometimes despair of evil and its effects in the world around us. But the apostle Paul writes, "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (Romans 16:20).

The final, great victory of Jesus over evil is described in Revelation 20:10: "The devil ... was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur" to remain there forever.

In the meantime, be aware, says Paul, that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12).

That is why we need to "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (6:10).

God is not forgetting us. Our merciful, patient, and powerful God is moving forward with his mission for the salvation of the people he loves.

Hold on to Jesus' promise: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

### Prayer

*Lord, make us aware of the spiritual battles we are waging. Give us freedom from fear and the sure knowledge that you are in control and that your grace is sufficient for us. Amen.*

**Devotion topics:** [Christianity](#), [Discipleship](#), [Life](#), [Christian Life](#), [Missions](#)

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