

Of course, that doesn't seem to bother that first car's driver; he's gotten through! He's on his merry way! And so I end up a few cars closer to the light, again waiting and hoping that the new first car driver will move as soon as the light turns!

Sometimes I get behind a slowpoke driver who seems determined to make my life miserable! Sometimes I get behind tourists, who slow down every time there is something they want to see, instead of pulling over to let me pass! Sometimes I get behind a car and feel that here before me I have the living embodiment of that old saying, "They ain't goin anywhere in partikeler, and don't much care when they git there."

Let me ask you: Have you ever needed to get somewhere and gotten stuck behind a driver who insisted on going 15 miles below the speed limit – 20 in a 35 zone, or 30 in a 45 zone? Have you ever gotten stuck behind a person who seemed determined to drive at the same speed no matter what speed zone he or she was in? If the speed limit was 15, they went 25, if it was 35, they went 25; and if it was 45, they still went 25!

I must confess that these things irritate me slightly!

But wait a minute! Why should we endure the faults of others? Why should we have to bear with their imperfections and mistakes, their stubbornness and idiotic behavior?

The answer is really quite simple. We should endure their stupidities because we want them to put up with our imperfections (assuming we have any!).

This principle of enduring the faults of others because we also have faults is illustrated in Hebrews 5:2, where a high priest of Israel should be able to "deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness."

Scripture does not tell us exactly how to produce patient endurance in ourselves. But it does tell us that tribulation or affliction produces patient endurance (Romans 5:3), and that the testing of our faith produces patient endurance (James 1:3). We are directed in James to the patience of Job. But the prime example is that of our Lord. In Hebrews 12:1-4 we are exhorted to run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus. In the marathon of life Christians are called on to run that race with patient endurance.