

Paige Powell Music Blog for January 12, 2021:

The Story Behind the Song, "Love Is Patient"

Yes, this was one time when I did NOT write the words to this song— they all come from **1 Corinthians, chapter 13** of the Bible, also known as the "**LOVE chapter**". This chapter is often read at weddings and is so famous, I decided to write music to it and create a song. I didn't start from the very beginning of the chapter, which states, "*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong ...*" These are all good words and good advice, but I wanted to start the song with the description of love: "*Love is patient and kind.*" This brief sentence says a lot.

Another verse from this chapter describes, "*It keeps no record of wrongs*". A few years ago, on the **radio program, "Focus On the Family"**, I heard an interview with a woman who had become a Christian and started to read and study the Bible with a close friend. At the time, her marriage was in bad shape. She realized that she had been **keeping a record**, in her mind, of every mistake, every wrong her husband had ever done. After she decided to discard her record of his wrongs, their marriage began to improve, little by little, and she discovered a better way that she could love her husband, and their marriage healed..

I was attending a Sunday evening church service at **Convergence, a church for artists** in the Fairlington section of **Alexandria, Virginia**. I don't remember the details but they challenged me to write a song from this scripture. When writing "*Love Is Patient*", I was encouraged by the songwriters who wrote music to scripture for **Integrity Music in the '90s**. Called **Scripture Memory Songs**, (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mz5xn6gaWr0>) the songwriters had to create songs where the words did not rhyme at all, and they were able to do a splendid job. I was able to see how they made it work, and I decided I could do it too. I also remembered to use **prosody, a good "tool" in the songwriter's tool belt**. That means that when the words describe an "up", the melody and music rises up. And when the words describe something "down", such as the word "evil", the melody and music goes down.

When I sang "*Love Is Patient*" in the recording studio, I realized that I was using what they call the "chest voice" instead of the "head voice" and it lacked the lightness I wanted, so I re-recorded the whole thing. You may hear how my voice sounds higher than in my other songs. I hope you enjoy it, and enjoy thinking about the Bible's description of what love really is!!

