



Blackfoot

Church of Christ

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Considering the Concept of Patience

By Bill Sexton

Some time back I was talking to a younger person, who had asked for advice, who was very upset and wanting to act now, relative to a problem. My overall suggestion: nothing should be "rushed into. Give it time to be worked out." Since that time, I have been pondering the problem, needed response, elements involved, etc. I'm impressed with the need for patience right now!

Divine Advice!

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise (Heb. 10:35-36). All of us need patience "after we have done the will of God." According to this passage, and as I observe human behavior I see, I believe, that patience is relative to confidence! Notice the connections.

1. One has to have placed himself in the hands of God by doing His will. One has to be a child of God, having believed (Heb. 11:6; Jn.8:24), repented (Lk. 13:3-5; Acts 17:30-31), confessed (Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10), and been baptized "into Christ" (Rom. 6:3-4) where salvation is (2 Tim. 2: 10). One has to be where God wants him to be (Acts. 4:12; Rev. 2: 10), having fellowship with Him (1 Jn. 2:4; 1:5:9).

2. One has to believe that when the will of God is done, all that can be accomplished shall be! Unless one has that confidence, faith that good will result, the end sought shall be achieved in time, patience is not possible.

3. By being where God wants one to be and believing that God's providence is operative - then one can calmly wait the results, the end of the storm and the safe, joyous journey on to the garden of desire and victory!

Personal Input!

Patience (hupomone) means "an abiding under" (W.E. Vine, p. 167). Trials or hardship are involved. "Patience may be either "passive", i.e. endurance. or "active", i.e. persistence, perseverance as (e) in well doing, Rom. 2:7 (A.V., 'patient continuance'); (f) in fruit bearing, Lk. 8:15; (g) in running the appointed race, Heb 12:1" (Vine, pp. 167-168). Each person has the ability and thus the responsibility of adding patience to his reservoir or arsenal of character traits. God says, "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience..." (2 Pet. 1:5-6).

Understanding that patience is related to confidence, then one can see the need to study, read and meditate on God's word - for faith comes from hearing God's word (Rom. 10:17). As one looks into the word of God, examining it closely, one can see that God is reliable; He can be and thus should be trusted! Take Him at His word, knowing that no other can defeat Him, and us if we are with Him (Jn. 10:22-30). Those who hear His voice and follow Him have security that is eternal! Therefore, when things aren't going as we would like for them to at the moment, we can be sure that there will be a turn-around in time! The victory is ours those who wait patiently - not casting off our confidence. The promised reward shall be received.

Satan will work endlessly, however, to cast doubt in our minds that such victory will be received by those who patiently wait for it. He shall, also, try to get us to act hurriedly and unwisely, failing to pay careful attention to God's directions (1 Pet. 5:8-9; Gen. 3:1ff; Matt. 4:1 -11).

Problems are going to always be a part of our playing field. Therefore, we must be mindful of the need to read and pray - for guidance; experiences shall result in a great reservoir of patience!

Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulation also: knowing that tribulation worketh

patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed. . . (Rom. 5:1-5).

Having acted by faith to gain access to the grace of God, we can have experiences that will enable us to grow and gain strength. Such is to be entered, however, with caution. We can't be overly confident, fool-hardy, for such shall lead to destruction. Yet, in our every-day-experiences, let us have faith that the problems are solvable - if we will look closely enough and pray and observe the situation, we'll find the solution that meets God's approval, and all will be well.

Additional Comments by Ross Ward

As we consider patience and the article above, I cannot help but see this lacking in the young Moses as he killed the Egyptian. We know from Acts 7 that Moses understood he was to lead the Israelites out of captivity, but we can see that he needed patience to let God do the leading. By the time God was ready for the Israelites to leave Egypt, Moses had developed great patience, possibly like no other. Certainly, we can say it is a significant aspect of his behavior as he dealt with the seemingly continuous complaining and rebellion from the Children of Israel. I'm sure we can all relate to Moses being frustrated with them, even in the moment he sinned against God. He truly had a tremendous amount of patience. In his patience, we see his endurance of wrong, or forbearance. On a few occasions he fell victim to an injury from others. He could have easily set back and let God's judgment destroy the Israelites, maybe even take pleasure in seeing God's wrath carried out against them. We know from scripture that God was ready to do that very thing. Yet, Moses not only endured the wrong but also advocated for the very people who injured him. This shows an aspect of patience. We also realize it is an attribute God. It is an attribute of our Savior, our Advocate. Jesus suffered for all mankind, yet he still advocates for us. What a great virtue for each of us to strive to attain and maintain in our life here and let God be about his work in his time.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Porters are travelling this week
- Stacey, Brenda's cousin, finished 4th round of cancer treatments
- Tammy Woodward is being treated for cancerous brain tumors and is experiencing problems with the treatments she is undergoing.
- Several of our number are in the recovery phase of surgeries
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class tonight 6:00pm at Chad and Kass' on evangelism
- Joe Price will be bringing lessons for us May 19-24
- Next week is our regular schedule business meeting

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<p><u>Today</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Lord's Table – David Porter Sermon – Ross Ward</p>	<p><u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward</p>
<p><u>Next Sunday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Ben Palmer Lord's Table – Larry Thompson Sermon – Ross Ward</p>	<p><u>Next Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Ben Palmer Invitation – Ross Ward</p>

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Class 10:00AM
Sunday Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Class 7:30PM



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