

Patient Endurance

“In your patience possess ye your souls.” Luke 21:19 (KJV)

“By your endurance you will gain your lives.” Luke 21 19 (NASB)

Patience. Endurance.....patient endurance.

I don't know about you, but these words don't always set well with my soul. Just ask my wife how patient I am. On second thought, let's not go there!

Patience and endurance is about hanging in there when it is hard to hang in there. There are times in life when hanging in there is hanging on to what God says, holding on to faith in the Word of God when circumstances are screaming at you to doubt.

In Matthew 24 and Luke 21, Jesus spoke of the end times before His second coming. He gave us a heads up as to what to expect, encouraging us who believe in Him to be patient and endure. In Matthew 24:13, the Lord said that those who endure to the end will be saved. Salvation has something to do with patience and endurance.

To endure you and I have to be patient. I will say it another way: endurance requires patience. God has a perfect plan that He is performing perfectly. He is right on course and right on schedule. A new heaven and new earth lie just around God's prophetic corner. My trying to speed Him up won't change anything except frustrate me!

I believe patient endurance has to do with trust. If you and I truly trust God, we will be patient and endure what is to take place, now and in the near future. If we are impatient with God's plan and timing, what does that say about our faith in Him?

Thinking about patient endurance, I have come up with five areas where I need to learn to be much more patient.

BE PATIENT WITH YOURSELF

You and I are a proverbial work in progress. God isn't finished with us (Philippians 1:6). He is finishing us. We (that's you and me) are not perfect. We are being perfected, made whole and complete. You and I have not arrived.... we are arriving, becoming more and more Christlike each day that we walk in faith and obedience.

So stop being so hard on you. You are imperfect and in need of patience from yourself.

BE PATIENT WITH PEOPLE

Here is the rubber-meets-the-road-test of patience: be patient with people's idiosyncrasies and idiocy (did I just call people idiots?). Certainly not. Be patient with people who bug you and drive you crazy (don't forget you bug someone too!).

- *Be patient with impatient people who try your patience.*

BE PATIENT WITH LIFE

Life is one long lesson in patience. Patience will pay off in the long run. For now, patience is needed daily. More than once. For me, a ton of times! Life is full of curve balls, bends in the roads, flops, failures and fumbles, setbacks and comebacks that require patience on our part.

- *Be patient with life because life is trying to teach you patience.*

BE PATIENT WITH YOUR DREAMS

Keep dreaming your God-given dream. Be patient with God's perfect timing. He really does know what He is doing. He knows how to put everything together in the right way at the right time for your dream to come true.

- *Dreams are fulfilled by patient people.*

BE PATIENT WAITING FOR THE LORD'S RETURN

Jesus is coming back! He said He would and He will. Study scripture for yourself. Then shout Hallelujah! Glory to God...Jesus, accompanied by a holy entourage of the heavenly host, will split the eastern sky, set His feet on Mount Olives in Jerusalem and take care of business!

- *Be patient...Jesus is on His way, coming for all who believe in Him. Come quickly Lord Jesus!*

What causes you to be impatient? What areas of your life do you need to be more patient? How about endurance? Are you pressing forward everyday for the prize of the upward calling in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:10-17). Are you in this thing called Christian living for the long haul?

Be patient with being patient. Be on guard against impatience. Impatience will rob you and me of God's richest blessings. Could it be that we have missed some of God's greatest gifts because we weren't patient? Just a thought.

Therefore, beloved brother and sister in Christ, be patient (endure) if you want to experience God's good, acceptable and perfect will for your life

"The end of a matter is better than its beginning, patience of spirit is better than haughtiness of spirit."
Ecclesiastes 7:8

"Be patient, therefore brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and latter rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."
James

5:7-8

A Word For Your Week: Endure with patience God's wonderful plan for your life.