

PATIENCE

I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures with you about patience.
I'd like to share what I believe the Holy Spirit has been showing me about it.

When we encourage someone to be patient, their typical response is to sit back, put their feet up, and wait passively. Much like someone sitting on their sofa at home patiently waiting for the postman to bring them a letter.

This may be the application of the natural type of patience, but the one I'm speaking of is totally different. The patience I'm speaking of is one of the fruits of the spirit. It's an aggressive unwavering response to a word from God. It gets a revelation of God's intentions, and then hangs on like a pit bull until the Holy Spirit brings it to pass.

Let me share a few examples of this kind of patience with you from the scriptures.

It's Anna and Simeon in the temple day and night, waiting for the Messiah and the revelation of the kingdom of God.
Luke 2.25 + 36

It's the father of The Prodigal Son standing in the front of the house looking down the road every day for the return of his son. Luke 15.20

It's Abraham waiting 25 years for Isaac his promised son. Genesis 15

It's Hannah longing for her son Samuel, so that she can give him to the Lord forever. 1 Samuel 1

It's Jesus waiting 30 years for the appointed time to begin His ministry as the Messiah.

In Luke 11.9+10 amp, Jesus says,
So, I say to you, ask *and* keep on asking and it shall be given you; seek *and* keep on seeking and you shall find; knock *and* keep on knocking and the door shall be opened to you.

For everyone who asks *and* keeps on asking receives; and he who seeks *and* keeps on seeking finds; and to him who knocks *and* keeps on knocking, the door shall be opened.

You continually pursue God's Word not because you hope God might come through, but because you are fully persuaded by faith that God has spoken His Word and He will perform it.

2 Corinthians 1.20 declares that as many as be the promises of God, they are all yes in Christ.....

Romans 8:29 amp
For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren.

In Jesus' parables, He likened God's word to a seed. It has within it everything necessary to bring forth fruit. A lemon seed is destined to bring forth lemons. It will never grow apples.

In 1 Peter 1.23, Peter declares that,
You have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.

Ephesians 4:15 says,
That we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ...

We need to receive by faith the implanted word of God and then be diligent to let it grow to full stature.

In his epistle chapter 1, verse 4, James reveals the amazing benefit of this kind of patience. It reads, let patience have its perfect work that you be perfect and complete lacking nothing.

The original Greek language in this scripture gives the picture of completing the course until the goal is achieved, and overcoming every obstacle to obtain the prize.

Patience requires revelation. It's the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It's not a natural response by man. It comes from the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives responding to a word from God.

Let me try to explain.

Parents get exasperated with their children because they don't have a revelation of who their children are created to be and why God entrusted them to them.

Husbands and wives get exasperated with each other because they don't have a revelation of why they are married, and God's purpose for them being one.

Christians get frustrated in their walk with God, because they don't have a revelation that Christ made them totally new creations who are born of God's supernatural, imperishable seed.

They lack the revelation that they have been recreated from living souls under the curse and influence of Satan, to life-giving Spirits in the eternal presence of God.

They spend their entire Christian life trying to wrestle their flesh into acting more like Jesus. They try to serve God with the very nature that He's already delivered them from.

Natural patience isn't like the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It's more of a passive tolerance with an unfounded hope that maybe their circumstances or their behavior could change. Saying wishfully, it might happen, or I sure hope it does.

My New American Standard Bible translates this word patience as endurance. It's not like people who endure unending negative situations that eventually crush them.

It's more like an Olympic athlete who endures 4 years of constant training to run a race that lasts less than 10 seconds. He endures it for the joy of competing in that 10 second race.

I'll finish with a few final verses from Hebrews 12.1 from the Amplified version.

Therefore then, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony to the Truth], let us strip off *and* throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to *and* entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance *and* steady *and* active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us, looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader *and* the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection].

As His children, God imparts the vision of being born of God, becoming one with God and being filled with the fullness of God in our spirits. Then He gives us His Holy Spirit to develop it, and to guarantee our possession of it.

It starts with God and it ends in God. He's the originator and the finisher, the Alpha and the Omega.

Let's allow the Holy Spirit's supernatural fruit to manifest in our lives as we put off our old unfixable lives and aggressively lay hold of the eternal life that God has promised to us as our inheritance.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller