

Life Strategy #3

Obtaining Patience

Our past two studies on wait training and delays would be incomplete if we did not discuss the topic of patience. We have all heard the saying “Patience is a virtue”, but have we ever wondered why? Have you ever thought about the situations where being patient is a necessity? Have you ever thought to yourself, “what good is being patient doing for me?” In this study, we will address some of these questions and try to help you to identify, before hand, when and why you need to be patient.

First, you must understand that **patience is not something you do, but rather it is something you are.** Now this is not to say that you don’t have to work at it, but it does mean that patience is not something you can fake, at least not with God. You see, you can put on the image of being a patience person, and yet when you are alone you show your true colors and reveal the true you, someone who may be as impatient as they come. **The key to patience is becoming a patient person, and not someone who is just acting patient.** As with most spiritual issues, patience is a matter of the heart, as much as a matter of the mind.

The second point is that while becoming, and not just acting, patient is the goal, **you must practice patience in order to become a patient person.** You need to exercise patience and practice using it every day. I believe it is better to be responsible for developing patience in your own life then to neglect it and have God get involved in order for you to become the person He has called you to be.

The third point is that **you will be tested.** As sure as the sun rises in the morning and sets at night, God will test your patience to see how strong you are. You must understand that **patience is a necessity for believers who are looking to be effective in their walk with God.** In addition to this, it is imperative that we develop a mature, seasoned, and working patience; for faith requires patience, and God requires faith (Hebrews 11:6).

So as you develop your wait and patience training, I pray that you will be filled with joy as your understanding and faith in God’s promises, not only grows, but becomes manifested in your life as well.

Circumstances that Require Patience

1. When Circumstances Seem Unmanageable

“Be patience...until the Lords coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patience he is for the autumn and spring rains.”

James 5:7 (NIV)

2. When Things Seem Unchangeable

“Follow the example of the prophets who spoke for the Lord. They suffered many hard things, but they were patient.”

James 5:10 (NCV)

3. When Difficulties Seem Unexplainable

“...You have heard of Job’s patience...”

James 5:11b (NIV)

When God is silent, I must be patient.

4. When Doing Right Seems Undesirable

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

Galatians 5:9 (NKJ)

Why Should We Be Patient?

1. GOD is In Control

“The Lord established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.”

Psalm 103:19 (NIV)

“...and He said to the waves ‘Quiet, be still!’ Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ... They were terrified and asked each other, ‘Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!’”

Mark 4:39, 41 (NIV)

2. GOD Rewards Patience

“As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered...”

James 5:11a (NIV)

“You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.”

Hebrews 10:36 (NIV)

While waiting patiently, prepare yourself for blessings.

3. GOD is Working It Out

“You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”

James 5:11b (NIV)

While I’m waiting, God is working.

See Habakkuk 1:1-11

We may not see or understand what is going on around us, but we can rest assured that God is working it out for our good, according to His will.