

The Virtues of Patience and Honesty

Patience (Gk.5281- cheerful endurance, constancy).

Jas 5:11 Behold, we count them happy (*Gk.3106- fortunate*) which endure (*Fortunate because many don't endure to the end that they might be saved.*). Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end (*Gk.5056- goal*) of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

- Covered in boils, Job couldn't have been "cheerful". But he did endure. God has an objective. His desire is to reward patience with His bountiful compassion.

2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue (*Gk.703- excellence*); and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance (*Gk.1466- self-control*); and to temperance **patience; and to patience godliness**; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness (*Gk.5360- fraternal affection*); and to brotherly kindness charity (*Gk.26- love, that is, affection or benevolence*). 8 For **if these things be in you, and abound** (*Gk.4121- increase*), they make you that ye shall **neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

- As faithful Christians our godly disposition shows Who we are associated with. As we have left the "sin (that) so easily beset us" (*Heb 12:1*) and continue to strive for "the excellency of the knowledge of Christ" (*Php 3:8*) "these things (will) be in (us)". What things? Conviction, excellence, knowledge, self-control, cheerful endurance, devotion, affection and benevolence.

2Pe 3:18 But **grow** in grace, and *in* the **knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

2Pe 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling (*Gk.2821- invitation*) and election (*Gk.1589- selection*) sure: for **if** (*this is what determines whether we stand or fall*) ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

- We have to R.S.V.P. (*respond*) to the call of the gospel which is an invitation to the "marriage supper of the Lamb" (*Rev 19:9*). Only then are we selected. But without "having a wedding garment" (*Mat 22:11-14*), being clothed with Christ (*Gal 3:27*), no one can enter the feast. The same was true in Esther's day.

Est 4:11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, **who is not called**, *there is* one law of his to put *him* to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden scepter, that he may live: ... (*the gospel is our "golden scepter". There is no other way by which we are invited to be with God. Not Islam, not Judaism or any cult, sect or denomination. Only through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ [Jn 14:6] do we have access to the joys of Heaven.*)

2Th 2:14 Whereunto he **called** you **by our gospel**, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mat 22:12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. *13* Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. *14* For many are called, but few *are* chosen.

- As a nation, Israel was called of God under the Old Covenant. But not all Israel answered. Remember a covenant has at least two parties to the agreement.

Exo 32:9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it *is* a stiff-necked people:

Pro 1:24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out My hand, and no man regarded; *25* But ye have set at nought all My counsel, and would none of My reproof:

- Speaking to Israel God said they would not listen to His instructions or heed His warnings.

Patience is not tolerance.

- God was very patient with Israel but never tolerated their transgressions.

“A euphemism is defined as the substitution of an agreeable word for an offensive one. For example, “sleeping with” is used to refer to sexual immorality. Sleeping of course, is not the act that is being talked about. Neither is being patient what some brethren mean when they use the term. What they say is patience. What they really mean is tolerance!”

“What many brethren call patience actually translates to not dealing with sin. Be patient and don’t expose the unfruitful works. Don’t mark or withdraw from anyone because of their sin. Of course, their brand of patience doesn’t apply to those who publicly disagree with false doctrine. This is really not patience. Patience is never an excuse to overlook sin.”

Scott Gilmore, July 21, 2012, Watchman Magazine

2Co 6:4 But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

Psa 25:3 Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.

- Brethren should never be ashamed of doing the right thing even when those in the wrong might try to make us feel that way. It seems the only place you’ll find “blush” anymore is in a woman’s make-up kit. Too often brethren shy away from confrontation when it comes to not wanting to ruffle feathers, cause hurt feelings or be made to question our motives and in many cases it’s considered the responsibility of others. The first person we need to be honest with is ourselves. If our motives are pure then we are to be “*rightly dividing the word of truth*” (*2 Tim 2:15*) as it pertains to the matter at hand. If we’re not careful someone’s soul can be at stake. Ultimately love demands action.

Patience demands action.

- “*Well you wait ‘til your father gets home!*” Patience has more to do with being constant than it does with “time”. Children need constant persistence from both parents but that’s no excuse to lash out from frustration either.

Col 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.

Luk 21:19 **In your patience** (*Gk.5281- endurance*) **possess ye your souls.**

- Lose your temper...lose your soul? A short fuse makes for a quick explosion and sometimes there isn't enough time to get out of the way before the explosion happens. Just as a long enough fuse on a bomb is necessary to get out of the way on time, so also is a person’s temperament.

Pro 14:17 *He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly:..*

- Thinking things out, a person might not do what they would have done if they hadn’t.

Eph 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not:..

Pro 16:32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*

Where and how do I get patience?

(*Patience is a “good and perfect gift” [James 1:17] that comes from above.*)

Rom 15:5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: 6 That ye may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- That’s the where (*from God*). Here’s the avenue through which we receive it.

Jas 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers (*Gk.4164- various*) temptations (*Gk.3986- a putting to proof; adversity*); 3 Knowing *this*, that the **trying** (*Gk.1383- testing*) **of your faith worketh** (*Gk.2716- to work fully; to fashion*) **patience.** 4 But let patience have *her* perfect (*Gk.5046- complete*) work, that ye may be perfect and entire (*Gk.3648- sound*), wanting (*Gk.3007- to fail*) nothing.

- Patience is the product of trial while attempting to avoid error. It is molded by adversity.

Rom 5:3 And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Hos 12:6 Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

Honesty (*Gk.4587- venerable-ness [honor], that is, probity [integrity]*).

In the church.

1Ti 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty (*Gk.4587*). (*Why Paul?*) 3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

- How are people to be saved or come to the knowledge of the truth if they feel we don't have integrity and aren't honest with them?

From elders.

1Ti 3:4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity (*Gk.4587*); 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) (*If an elder can't teach his own children to be honest, how can he, in good conscience, expect such from the flock he oversees?*)

- Isn't it interesting how those who are not **Christians** are the first to try and catch a brother or sister in a lie, or any sin for that matter? Sometimes to the point of making things up.

1Pe 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

From the young.

Tit 2:6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. 7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine *shewing* uncorruptness, gravity (*Gk.4587*), sincerity (*Gk.861-genuineness*), 8 Sound (*Gk.5199-healthy*) speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part (*Gk.1727-antagonistic*) may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

In business.

Pro 20:23 Divers weights *are* an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance *is* not good.

- Merchants who knowingly misrepresented the true price of their goods used lighter weights on their scales when they knew their customer was ignorant of it. The more weights they used the more money they made on each item that was priced according to what it weighed.

Pro 6:16 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto Him: 17 A proud look, a **lying tongue**, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A **false witness that speaketh lies**, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

- Out of the seven things that **God** hates, dishonesty is such an abomination that it is mentioned twice on this list.

Pro 26:24 He that hateth dissembleth (*Heb.5234- acknowledges*) with his lips, and layeth up deceit (*Heb.4820- fraud*) within him; 25 When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for *there are* seven abominations in his heart. (*Pro 6:16-19*)

Jas 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

- How often have things been said that the moment they left the lips they were regretted? As a forest fire during dry weather, so are words carelessly spoken but a forest fire is easier to bring under control. Honestly, how many things have ever been said out of spite that we later wish they were never said at all?

Jer 17:9 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, *I* try the reins (*Heb.3629- mind*), even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings.

We reap what we sow.

Luk 8:11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the way side are they that **hear**; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, **lest they should believe and be saved**. 13 They on the rock *are they*, which, when they **hear**, **receive the word** (*believe*) with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. 14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have **heard**, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection. 15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an **honest** (*Gk.2570- virtuous*) and good heart, having **heard** the word, **keep it**, and **bring forth fruit with patience** (*Gk.5281- constancy*).

- There are many who state that all one has to do to be saved is believe. How can you believe in something you've never heard about? And so it is with the other steps necessary to be saved. For instance: If you were to give me your seven digit phone number and asked me to call you at a certain time to which I agreed and you waited but no call ever came through, wouldn't you wonder why I didn't call you? But when we did get together the next time you might ask why and if my response was that I did try to call but the call never went through, wouldn't you want to know if I was dialing the right number? If I were to say that I only dialed six of the seven numbers wouldn't you be a bit perturbed with me and state that all the numbers had to be dialed before the call would go through? But then I would say I did dial all the six numbers substituting the one I didn't use the first time in a different sequence but when I tried this time and no call was made I hung up and tried all the numbers but in a different sequence and to no avail, what then would you say? Sort of confusing, huh? Wouldn't it be so much easier, than, to just follow the simple directions that were given in the first place? God has given us His calling number in His phone book (*the Bible*) via the gospel. We need to follow the sequence in order so that our answering His call will go through. Here they are:

#1. Have you heard?

Romans 10:14 ..."how shall they believe in Him **Whom they have not heard?**"

#2. Do you believe?

Heb 11:6 ..."for he that commeth to God **must believe that He is...**"

#3. Have you repented?

Act 3:19 ... **Repent** ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."

#4. Have you acknowledged Christ as the Son of God?

Mat 10:32 "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father Who is in Heaven."

#5. Have your sins been washed away?

1 Pet 3:21 "...baptism doth **also** now save us..."

#6. If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Romans 6:4 "...we also should walk in newness of life."

#7. Grow

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

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