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## Learning To Endure With Patience

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There are benefits and blessings which come from learning to endure, it is during these times of learning to endure, that we grow spiritually. Our spiritual growth is like a set of stair steps, continually going up even when we are in times of pressure, yet there is always an upward motion, going to a higher level as we mature. As we receive revelation knowledge of endurance and act on it as doers of the word, we will receive the blessing. Paul tells us in the following scriptures that he had found the secret or recipe on how to respond to adversity or endurance.

Phil 4:12-13 "I know how to be abased *and* live humbly in straitened circumstances, and I know also how to enjoy plenty *and* live in abundance. I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation, whether well-fed or going hungry, having a sufficiency *and* enough to spare or going without *and* being in want. 13 I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency]." AMP

Phil 4:12-13 "I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. I'm just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I've found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am. I don't mean that your help didn't mean a lot to me—it did. It was a beautiful thing that you came alongside me in my troubles." MESSAGE

As believers we must learn this same secret that Paul speaks of, it comes through learning praise and worship. There is a song entitled "While I'm Waiting" which speaks of learning to trust God through each and every trial that may come our way, learning patience even though the wait is painful and being obedient in the waiting that follows. We must learn to worship while we are waiting without complaining or having "pity parties", even though the temptation is there, we must learn to correct the emotions that arise.

Pro 19:21 "There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand." KJV

We are going to enjoy life and make spiritual progress.

Psalms 23:1-6 "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." KJV

v. 3 - God takes care of the emotional side of us; v. 5 God supplies abundance, while we are walking through the valley, for God's plan is to bless us even as things begin to close in around

us and there seems no way out, God's will is that we be blessed in the midst of adversity, His blessing is more than enough. "Passing through the valley of the shadow of death" does not only pertain to physical death, but to the death of dreams or relationships that we may have. Let the Lord be our shepherd, keeping our focus on Him. God is greater than adversity or any problems, don't let hope be gone. Become true worshipers.

(Margaret had a word) "The spirit of God said, if we could see on the other side of the mountain, we would make more effort to remove the mountain. There are times when people only see the mountain and the hindrances in their lives, the negative things that are there, you become despondent because of the mountain, the crying, the sweating having pity parties, does not remove the mountain, but if you could see what He has prepared for you on the other side of the mountain, you would do everything that you need to do in obedience to God, to get there because it is worth it, saith the Lord."

Glory is just around the corner. Romans chapter 8 tells us that any suffering we do here in life is just a down payment on the glory that is to come.

Heb 6:12,15 "12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise." KJV

Patience is always associated with endurance. Faith and patience are the power twins.

2 Thess 1:4 "So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:" KJV

We must have the "meat and potatoes" of the word of God that will feed us and keep us going, we cannot just have "dessert" and expect to continue to grow.

Patience is defined with enduring long if necessary, is a great waiter but is a poor receiver. Faith and patience will be found in the Bible as linked together. Faith is more aggressive in believing God, is a great receiver, but sometimes doesn't like to wait. True faith will wait. Faith and patience work together.

Heb 12:1 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," KJV

James chapter 5 refers to the "patience of Job", but Job is not mentioned in chapter 11 of Hebrews in the "hall of faith". However at the end of the adversity that Job went through, he realized that God was for him and not against him, and that God had nothing to do with the trials, that they had all come from the devil, he changed the words of his mouth, prayed for his friends and God gave him twice of much as he had before. God always has the last word.

In the following scriptures, we learn of the boundless ocean of God's grace that is so large that we cannot image how large it is, that this is God's plan for us. Whatever we need it is there. God's grace is looking for any way to get into our lives to flood us with His blessing; it is not by works but is by grace. It is accessed by faith included with praise and worship. It is a challenge for us to praise and worship when there are troubles and afflictions. We must not close the door which will cause us to stay despondent.

There is a key to enduring and developing patience. God gives us many opportunities to learn a truth, we must learn these truths before adversities come our way; it is easier to learn while things are going smooth, than when trials are all around us. We continue to make progress while we are waiting, but it all has to do with our response or attitudes to the word of God. We are conquerors and winners; that is God's plan for us. We must continue to rejoice. In developing patience, we are going to keep on waiting, singing, being confident, bold and making spiritual progress.

Heb 12:1 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," KJV

Patience does not allow us to sit down and quit, but we have a virtue in our lives that is developing, causing us to grow and become strong. Patience is a quality that does not surrender to circumstances nor succumb to trials. It is the opposite of despondency and is always associated with hope.

The testing of our faith is never done with testing that might cause us to stumble or fall, the enemy will try to "steal, kill and destroy" but God does not. In the middle of our tests and trials learn how to be full of joy, looking for the end result. God is looking toward the end result in us.

Rom 5:2-4 "Through Him also we have [our] access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace (state of God's favor) in which we [firmly and safely] stand. And let us rejoice *and* exult in our hope of experiencing *and* enjoying the glory of God. 3 Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult *and* triumph in our troubles *and* rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure *and* affliction *and* hardship produce patient *and* unswerving endurance. 4 And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character (approved faith and tried integrity). And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation" AMP

Pursuit is the proof of our desire, if there is a desire, pursue it. Dreams with goals in mind, relationships of all kinds.

Rom 5: 2-11 " We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide open spaces of God's grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise. There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit! MESSAGE

The blessings are coming as we continue to shout our praise, even though we are hemmed in with troubles. Patience doesn't give up, be passionate in not surrendering to adversity, running our race. Keep our eyes focused on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. God's plan for us is to bless us more than we can ever imagine.

Let patience continue to grow in our lives.

Paul teaches us that we have the same spirit of faith. We are not going to give up; glory is just around the corner. We speak truth, we speak to the mountain. In the midst of adversity if we

focus on it, we lose sight of the answer. Look to Jesus and the word of God which never fails. All adversities are subject to change and they will change. Jesus is eternal, hold steady and see the word of God working for you. The enemy tries to get us to lose sight of where we are headed.

2 Cor 4:13, 16-18 " 13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; 16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." KJV

When we are surrounded with trials and adversities, we will find that there is a way out, through praise and worship, because God has put a song in our hearts and one day we will be going to "Father's House". His name is Jesus!!!