
SOLA FIDE

Mustard Seed Community Church | Vol. 13 | No. 1

Patience

Patience is a virtue, but it's easier said than done. For most of us, it is easy to find ourselves in a rush for one thing or another. For example, I often exhaust myself trying to complete various tasks, whether for work or family chores, trying to do things quickly and efficiently as possible. Yet, without patience, things can go wrong. I once had responsibility of auditing numbers at my work, but because I rushed everything, not having patience, I ended up having to spend extra 4 hours to correct my own mistakes. This incident was just a work-involved issue, but in life overall, when we lack patience, it can have detrimental outcomes. In this short essay, I would like to share my personal struggles in learning to be patient in the Lord.



In late 2016, I lost someone dear to me. The loss of this person caused a great shift in myself and many lives within my family. One day, this person was alive, making jokes, dancing, and smiling, but the next day, never to be seen again. It was an unexpected passing, yet life has to go on. Over time, I tried adjusting my life without this person, and it was not easy. Losing someone so close to you all your life is a struggle. There was much pain, sorrow and anguish. I wanted these feelings to go away as quickly as possible, so I kept myself busy with work, errands and different responsibilities. This led to me falling away from social get-togethers, friends and others, which caused a chain-reaction causing even more bitterness in my life. In retrospect, I never mourned for this person's passing; instead I just rushed into busying myself. This was because I wanted a quick fix. Over time, this whole ordeal ate me up inside, and I noticed a lot of bad habits forming in my life because of it. After much time passed, I finally had to admit that this was resulting from my lack of patience in trusting in God and lack of patience in dealing with issues one step at a time.

It was during this time, I started attending my current church (Mustard Seed Community Church). And at church, I met other Christians, who I was able to share my life's stories

**In times of hardships
or in times of peace,
practice and cultivate
patience through
these simple things:**

.....

1. Pray.
2. Open the bible and read it.
3. Meditate upon the Scripture read.
4. Fellowship with other believers.
5. Ask believers to pray for you.
6. Corporately worship the Lord.
7. Think about the cross.
8. Occupy your mind with eternal things.
9. Remind yourself of God's sovereignty.
10. Rest.

with. Through much encouragements, I decided to take my faith more seriously. Ultimately, this caused me to look at things in different light. After talking back and forth with fellow believers, it dawned on me that I had a lot of maturing to do, and the one aspect of it was developing patience. I was so impatient that I wanted the end goal before starting the race. Harvesting before even planting the seeds. My patience, or lack thereof, was a main cause of much of my bitterness and why I struggled so much in life. However, overtime, seeing how fellow believers would take on their personal struggles, it helped me to see how I was supposed to endure difficult times in life.

I read the book of Job. And I related with his ordeal because he was going through so much hardships and anguish. And one thing I've learned from Job was his patience in waiting for God's deliverance. While Job was suffering, his friends came to him and accused him of doing evil, which they argued was the reason for his suffering (Job 4:7-8, 8:20, 11:14-15,17). Even Job's wife told him that he was worthless ("Then his wife said to him, 'Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.'" Job 2:9). Despite going through unfathomable sufferings, discouragement from others, devoid of understanding why, Job still held fast, trusted, and stayed patient for God's deliverance. Job trusted God's sovereignty. Likewise, we, Christians, should also be patient in our struggles because God is in control. This we must not forget, that our God is in control!

The Lord, our heavenly Father, is always in control of all things. At times it is hard to see or realize this because we are so easily discouraged or distracted by what is immediately in front of us. Yet, God is in control of all things forever while this world and everything in it is passing away (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). So let us patiently rely, trust and depend upon God, especially in times of difficulties, because He is forever in control and He will not abandon us!

Philippians 4:6 "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."