

Life on the Vine

Patience

July 27, 2014

Characteristics of true patience

Patience = the act or power of calmly or contentedly waiting for something due or hoped for; forbearance.

1. True patience is the willingness to _____.
2. True patience is in _____.

Obstacles to avoid

1. How I _____ time.
2. When I _____ time.
3. My need to _____.

In order to experience true patience in my life...

1. ...I need to _____ my _____.
2. ...I need to _____ about time _____.
3. ...I need to embrace a _____.

*Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this...
Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.*

(Psalm 37:3-4,6)

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Reflect and Respond

- Think about my life this past week. When was I impatient? How do I think my understanding of time contributed to my impatience? Were there any times when I was impatient with people because they were not meeting my expectations or conforming to my timetable?
- In general, how do I approach time? Do I like a precise order to things and prefer scheduling my day? Or would I rather “go with the flow” and allow the day to dictate my schedule? (Note: this is not about a right way or a wrong way in approaching time. This is simply meant to have you think about how you prefer to handle time. There are pros and cons to either way of how you handle time)
- This week I will think about my relationship with God, writing down or outlining my journey with God. While I do this I will think about how God patiently waited for me to respond to him.
- Am I overcommitted? Is my schedule preventing the Spirit to cultivate patience in my life? If so, what two or three things can I eliminate over the next few months that will help me reclaim a healthy rhythm of life?
- Do I have a **daily** time to relax, refresh, and refocus? What about the idea of a Sabbath day of rest in my **week**? Do I plan extended times (i.e. vacations) during the **year** where I can unplug and spend time with friends and family?
- Am I being patient with myself and with others as I and they seek to grow in the Spirit and bear fruit?

Lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Colossians 1:10-12

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