

The Calm of Christ and the Impatient Soul

Impatience steals rest from our souls and peace in our relationships. Below are a few thoughts on our struggle with impatience.

God is the source of patience. Patience is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, cultivated in a daily relationship with God, which produces a harvest of trust in our Sovereign Father. Could it be that our impatience is related to a spiritual life that is neglected, inconsistent, or inconsequential to our daily lives?

Fill our mind with Christ's patient suffering. What are our inconveniences, uncertainties, and temporary sufferings compared to those of Jesus Christ? Christ endured it all, so that through His Spirit who indwells us, we may consider His patient suffering and "follow in His steps" (1 Peter 2:21).

Cultivate humility by considering God's greatness and majesty. Focus on God who "brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing" (Isaiah 40:23); by whose command "the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth... who foils the plans of the nations, thwarts the purpose of the peoples"; and whose "plans stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations" (Psalm 33:6, 10, 11). Through faith in Jesus Christ, this God is our God and Father who loves us with a saving and adoptive love; promising that if "God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31) Do we have a patience problem or do we have a small view of God problem?

Difficult people and circumstances are often God's character-building method. We live in an "instant gratification" culture. We want what we want and we want it right now. Ironically, this mentality produces far more discontentment and dissatisfaction than gratification. One thing our instant gratification culture does not produce is spiritual character.

Character is produced by learning and living the principle of "delayed gratification" or what the Bible calls patience. The sovereign Father whose love never fails often grows character by some measure of suffering. "We rejoice in our suffering because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3-5).

Great peace in the Lord,
Eddie