

“FOR YOU HAVE NEED OF EDNURANCE”

By Keith Greer

“Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.” {Hebrews 10:35,36} The Hebrew writer informed his readers of their need for patience (endurance) in order to obtain the rest promised by God. Today, we also need patience toward:

Ourselves. “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function.” {Romans 12:3-5} Many people think too highly of themselves, and this interferes with their patience. Christians sometimes put too much pressure on themselves when they expect to grow and mature too quickly. Work within your own abilities and do not compare yourself with others. Consider the parable of the talents {Matthew 25:14-30}.

Those who are in error. “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.” {2 Timothy 2:24-26} Some quickly label others before giving them a chance to recognize and repent of their error. The Scriptures teach us to seek the lost, and that includes those who are in error! We are not suggesting compromise, just patience to help the one who is engaged in error to see that error and abandon it. Please consider Paul’s admonition in Galatians 6:1,2.

The untaught. “So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.” {Acts 18:26} Patience can help us understand another person’s need to be taught. Many of the people we meet have been indoctrinated with false religious teaching and have never heard the truth. Young Christians need the information that will enable them to grow in faith. We must have enough patience to instruct and guide them so they can increase their Bible knowledge.

Life’s trials. “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” {James 1:2-4} No one wants a life full of adversity and difficulty. Yet, experience and observation teach us that adversity and difficulty are part of life. When they occur, we must be patient and lean on God for support. Our problems can overwhelm us only if we allow them to do so. Our problems will either make us stronger or weaker – whichever we choose.

Christ’s return. “Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.” {James 5:7,8}

Yes, the Lord promised to return and take us home to be with Him in heaven {John 14:1-4}. Only God knows when that will be {Matthew 24:36}. Where does that leave us? We must prepare for His return. Patiently endure whatever life brings until you die, or He is revealed from heaven. {1 Thessalonians 4:13-18}

Are you allowing patience to have its perfect work in your life? ***