

Take Your Time -1

“But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing”.

James 1:4

This verse tells me that if patience is involved, then more is at stake than first may have met our eyes.

This should not be a surprise because the scriptures testify of a God who never does things in a half-baked way. The scriptures testify of him, that his work is nothing but perfect.

(2 Samuel 22:31 & Psalm 18:30 both state that...)

“As for God his way is perfect...”

We are therefore again not surprised to see that the opening definition of the nature of God, in what has been referred to as the love chapter, is that 'Love is patient...'. 1 Corinthians 13 verse 4 in the Amplified version puts it like this: “Love endures long and is patient and kind..”

So if nothing else, we are in excellent company when we are enduring in trusting with God against the apparent odds. We are partaking in nothing short of the fellowship of The Father, Son and Holy Ghost!

Psalm 37: 7 says, “Rest IN the Lord, and wait patiently for Him...” That quality of patience, which in the Greek is defined as 'cheerful endurance', 'constancy' and 'patient continuance', is a divine attribute conceived out of true intimacy and fellowship with God himself i.e. with the Father, the Word and the Spirit.

Now James had said in the previous verses:

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations, knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience” (James 1: 2, 3).

What an inherent promise of heavenly fellowship! No wonder we are able to count it all joy!

But wait! Let us zoom in on the subject of this 'patience exercise' which he says is “the trying of your faith..” (vs 3) The word faith here is defined in the Greek as 'your persuasion, or conviction of the truthfulness of God'. Aaah, so this is what is really at stake!

Again Peter speaks of “**the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that

perisheth..." (1Peter 1:7).

Pause. You see, for you to be tried in the first place you must have believed something about the truthfulness of God. In Luke chapter 8, Jesus tells us the parable of the sower and then says this parable is foundational to the understanding of His Kingdom. In verse 15 of this chapter He says concerning His seed, the word He speaks to every man:

"But that on the good ground are they which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it and bring forth fruit with patience". (oh oh there's that necessary ingredient again!)

So let us review the points we have picked up so far:

1. Patience is a quality produced out of intimacy and fellowship with God under pressure (i.e holding fast to God's Word that has come to you in the face of contradiction);
2. Patience is the necessary guardian of this great treasure - your faith (persuasion of the truthfulness of God i.e. His Word), which is really what is at stake;
3. and finally..., Patience is a process that delivers the goods and ensures that out of the trial or adversity you produce **the godly fruit**.

So what is this fruit? Well it is the same fruit spoken of in the parable of the sower (look above at Luke 8 vs 15); it is also the same 'fruit' or reward spoken of in Matthew chapter 10 verse 22, when He says "but he that endureth till the end shall be saved".

The word saved here has echoes of the word 'perfect'. One of the definitions of the greek word 'sozo' is 'to be made whole'.

So you see we have come full circle - back to that perfect work of God, which is 'the end' spoken of in Luke 8 vs 15. You see my brethren there is an end and the scriptures assure us that our expectation of God **shall not** be cut off - Proverbs 23:18. After you have patiently endured, your change will come and you will find that you surely have been changed also in His likeness.

Hebrews 3: 14 puts it like this "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end".

Therefore this fruit, this reward is nothing short of Perfection Himself being made manifest in our mortal flesh - 'Christ in us the hope of glory', for which reward Paul says he counts all things but dung. You would too if you saw the glory of the reward that has been promised to you, and you do see it.