

Couples In Bloom - **Patience**

April 2010

Thank you for praying for the Couples In Bloom marriage discipleship ministry. Be encouraged in knowing that the only wise God loves us, that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that the Holy Spirit is inhabiting, comforting and empowering Christians worldwide. Entire nations are less than dust on God's scale, yet He is individually calling over 6.6 billion people by name to respond to His love ⇒ Isaiah 40:15; John 3:15.

We had a serious rain storm during our March 13th book signing event (God bless the family, friends and shoppers who braved the wild weather). We had prayed about the weather in advance. Many kind people have since expressed sympathy, in view of a lesser turnout, quantitatively speaking. Our reply was that God runs both the weather and our ministry, so we had no complaints. It was an opportunity to grow in patience and trust, and to encourage others to do the same. Book signing events are for contacting people for ministry purposes, and we believe the right people were contacted that day. ☺

What can help us be patient, especially with our spouse? The New Testament word *patience* means to *stay behind or underneath, maintaining an inferior position*. Why would anyone choose to do that? The Bible also tells us **the purpose of patience is preparation for God's blessing** ⇒ Hebrews 10:36; Revelation 3:10. God has intelligent and loving reasons for His Word. Patience is the grace that helps people learn... *even us*.

Unfortunately, **there is an unwise and evil saying which warns against praying for patience**. Two reasons it is not good: 1) God says *to* grow in patience, and 2) the saying selfishly promotes the cost (to self) *over* the benefit (to others and self). Imagine being impatient: *AARRGGHH!!* Does the humility of being a servant who gently assists someone into a better place come to mind? *NO*; disappointment with them not meeting a pre-determined expectation comes to mind... which is not necessarily wrong in itself ⇒ Matthew 15:16-17. Here *Jesus felt impatience* toward his disciples **PLUS** remembered the purpose of patience, and therefore asked, 'You still don't understand?' He then explained it further *before* leaving to do something else. God's Word lasts forever; we *need* it to prosper! God says patience is good, so we need to *embrace* it and not scorn it.

What if we are REALLY stuck in impatience? Read the answer from a (formerly) **VERY** impatient person: the Apostle Peter ⇒ **2 Peter 1:1-12**. The Holy Spirit exclusively owns the power we need to conquer our big problems. This is why much conflict exists over the role of the Holy Spirit (even in churches, sadly). Satan trembles at the name of Jesus, and flees from the power of the Holy Spirit. As Lucifer, Satan lived with the Trinity and knows first-hand the ultimate power they own. Always remember: God gives all the power we need to conquer anything... even death. The variable in life is our free will; **that is why we submit our lives to God. He** is the only way, the truth and the life!

Unbelievable blessings be yours; then give them away! ❤️ Loren & Kathy Falzone

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