

BARAH MINISTRIES
Practice Patience and Perseverance – September 22, 2013

**/ Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES
a Christian Church
Good Morning!
Let's Make a Mental Shift**

Good morning!

Galatians, Chapter 2, Verse 20 says...

/GAL 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in (dwelling) me; and the (Zoe) life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me (unconditionally) and (who) gave Himself up (as a substitute) for me."

And, as I remind us every time...

This is why we come to church. So that in the tough times, we can remember that it's Christ who lives through us, and by His unconditional love we can handle any circumstance we find ourselves in.

So, my challenge for us is that we focus our attention on God and His Word for the next hour. So, that way what we can learn in here we can use out there in the real world.

Like we read in Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 2...

/ROM 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Now is the time to let your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through the power of God the Holy Spirit, prepare you "in humility to receive the Word implanted, which is able to save your souls."

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

*Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises*

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Pray\

As God prepares you for the RENEWING of your mind, let's hear Sanctus Real worship our Lord in song, while you concentrate on your Lord and Savior. The opening song is... Pray.

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth... the Word of God...

Please help us to learn to wait on You and Your perfect timing. Help us to learn that Your plans are bigger and better than any picture that we have in our heads.

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit... in Christ's name... Amen.

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Caleb Alburn
Deacon\

Welcome to Barah Ministries. My name is Caleb Alburn, and I'm a Deacon here at Barah. Welcome to a ministry designed for people who want to develop a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

/TODAY'S STUDY

Practice Patience and Perseverance

So, I have a question for you. How often do you find yourself praying for patience?

How often do you find yourself on your last nerve? How often do you find yourself tired of waiting and wandering around hoping for a result of your choosing to finally happen?

I ask this question about your patience, because this describes all of us. All of us have our patience tested daily. All of us wish that we would see results sooner.

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Maybe there's something in your life right now that you're just plain old sick and tired of going through... And, hopefully you are... that way I'm not the only one.

We all have parts of life that don't move at the speed we wish them to. And, hopefully by the end of this lesson... that won't change... but, at least you'll be okay with it.

God doesn't make us endure events in our lives, because He's too busy on the other side of the Earth answering prayers. No, God doesn't work that way.

God wants His highest and best for us. Well, if He wants His highest and best for us, why is that we still have annoying events that we go through? Why is it we still have to wait so long for specific outcomes to occur?

I think those are valid questions. And, I think those are questions that a lot of us ask sometimes.

And, essentially here's what we're asking...

/If God is so powerful and so loving, why don't we get what we want when we want it?\

You see, when we say it out loud, the answer's pretty simple. Even parents know that you can't do that to your children... at least not right away...

As parents, you genuinely do want to give anything and everything to your kids... just not right away... not always at the moment they ask for it... WHY?

I think that's another good question. Why is it as a parent you don't give anything and everything to your child right away?

The answer... because, you want your highest and best for them.

/You want your highest and best for your children.\

(CAR EXAMPLE)

And, it's because you as a parent have enough foresight to look into the future and know the consequences, both good or bad, to their child in any circumstance they find themselves in.

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Well, if that's true... if you as a parent know what's best for your child, how much more so is it true that God knows what's best for you?

Or I'll let God, Himself say it...

/MAT 7:11

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

And, I'm asking you this question as much as I am asking it to myself. Because, I ask God all the time why it is that I have to wait so long for things. I find myself being so impatient sometimes.

(Explain the difference in PATIENCE between AMANDA and YOU)

And, God always reminds me of a lesson that Pastor Rory taught years ago. He taught us, imagine in our minds the most amazing life we could come up with....

And, then he told us smash those thoughts and get rid of them. Those dreams you have in your mind are pathetic. They're too limiting. The picture that God Himself painted for your life is so much better by far.

Why do we confine our lives to such limiting thoughts and viewpoints? Why do we try to put a restraints on God?

Maybe, when we're enduring hardship in our lives, God's actually in the middle of answering our prayers...

I want you to think of the times in your life where a prayer wasn't answered right away, and the result of the situation was better for you because of that.

And, I'll give you an example of that. How many of you remember when Barah was trying to purchase our piece of property? Well, during that process, the deal ended up falling through.

Well, it came back on the market at a later date for a cheaper price, and then God decided to give it to us. Well, that seems like a better outcome to me. I'm glad He made us wait.

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Or I'll share a personal story... Before Amanda and I moved down here we flew down to buy a house. (Give house story) We came down, saw it, liked it, put an offer, it got accepted, and we flew back to Oregon.

Well, the deal ended up falling through, so we had to rent an apartment for a couple years. Well, last year we ended up buying a bigger, better, and nicer house for less money, less interest, lower insurance, lower payment, and on the same highway exit.

So, again I ask you... to think about events in your life that you've gone through... think about events in your life that you're going through.

Believe me, God was working on the outcome the whole time. Or, if you happen to be currently going through something, God IS working on the outcome right now.

I challenge you to continue to be patient and trust that God has his highest and best for you.

He proves it in His Word. This, I'm convinced is why God gives us the story of the Walls of Jericho. And, in case you don't know the story of the City of Jericho, I'll set up the scene...

/Joshua, Chapter 6\

Joshua succeeded Moses, and was commander of the Israelites. They were in the process of conquering the land of Canaan. And, please keep in mind that this is after their 40 years of wandering the desert, so God was really testing their patience.

So, the story goes that the army had to march around the city once a day for seven days. And, the city was only about 8.5 acres. So, it wasn't that big. And, you can imagine them doing nothing for the rest of the day, just looking and waiting for this obstacle to finally be behind them.

And, on the seventh day, they had to march around it seven times. And then, shout as loud as they can.

After this, the walls surrounding the city fell down, so that the Israel army can take over the city.

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So, here's a question that someone asked on the radio. And, I loved it so much that I'm going to take this lesson with me for the rest of my life. And, I want to ask you that same question...

What if the army got tired? What if they didn't want to march anymore? What if they quit on the sixth day? Or worse... what if they spent seven days marching around the city, and then marched around the city seven times, but decided not to shout?

How often do we do that? How often do we lose patience and stop ourselves just short of a miracle? How often do we stop something the moment we lose patience, instead of persevering through it?

And, the good news is, because of God's grace, you likely can't answer most of those questions. Thank God.

You think the Israelites wanted to dance around a city for a week looking like idiots after they had just wandered blindly around the desert for forty years? Of course not!

They wanted to just go right in, but God had something better planned for them. God was cooking a stew, and He just wanted them to simmer for a little while longer while He worked out a miracle on their behalf.

/Stew picture

Again, God wants His highest and best for you, and when we come back from the break we'll look into some more examples that God gives us.

Let's go ahead and take a 5-minute break... as we listen to Dry by Kutless

/BREAK

Dry - Kutless

When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

I want to spend the last half of the lesson looking into more biblical examples of God pulling through for us.

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And, one verse that I would love to have ringing through your ears even after this lesson is finished is Revelation, Chapter 2, Verse 3.

This is God telling the church at Ephesus some of the things that He likes about them.

/REV 2:3

...you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake.\

Now, that's something that I would like God to say about me also. I never want my light to burn out.

I always want my light to shine, especially when it's hard as it says in Matthew, Chapter 5, Verses 14 through 16. Turn there please...

/MAT 5:14

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;\

/MAT 5:15

Nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.\

/MAT 5:16

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.\

Now, of course we know that this isn't always easy. In fact, it's really hard. It's really difficult for us to show God's glory when nothing is going the way we planned.

This is why God tells us to be patient though. Because through your patience and perseverance through difficult times, you can lead other people to Christ.

That beacon of light draws them closer and closer to you. By you enduring the hardships of your life, you can actually lead others to God and be an effective witness to them.

That's exciting! Ignore all the promises that God has for you. Ignore all the promises that we learned about in the first half of this lesson.

/Your suffering can lead other people to Christ.\

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That is... if you handle it well. If you're not being a Debbie Downer. If you're being sour while you go through tough times, you probably feel alone.

But, have you ever tried to have a good attitude during times of need? Because I'm telling you... people will flock to you when you have a good attitude.

And, quite frankly... I can't think of anything better.

I can't think of anything better than knowing for a fact that God has His highest and best for me... and knowing that exercising my faith through patience and perseverance could lend me opportunities to lead others to Christ as well.

That blows my mind...

I share with you stories about myself all of the time. And, as I shared with you before. I now know why God has given me so many. I now know why God has allowed me to experience so many events in such a short amount of time...

God's allowed these events to happen for not just my benefit, but for those around me. And, it's taken me years to realize that. He's given me teaching tools to use for others for the rest of my life. I'm grateful for that.

Now, how true is that for your life as well? Right? I mean, I know I'm not the only one with stories. I'm not the only one who's ever had things happen in his life. Some of you are going through circumstances right now.

Think of your life... You have plenty to teach and to offer to others, because of what God has allowed you to go through... because of what God has graciously given to you.

Because of those experiences and because of what you're experiencing now, you're going to be able to help someone else get through the same situation later.

And, I know you might think you're the only one going through it, or that you're the only one who has gone through it. I know that, because I used to think the same thing as well.

But, I can't tell you enough that after talking to more and more people, these same things happen to others every day.

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And, that's what I think defines LIVING the Christian Way of Life. We all have stories, but most never use them to help someone else.

Most people keep their stories locked up. Most people keep them safe and hidden, so no one else can learn from them.

I believe that when you can share these experiences... what you went through... and what you learned in the process... or... what you're GOING through... and what you're LEARNING in the process... that you can help positively affect someone else's life.

You can give a ray of hope to someone who needs it desperately. You can be someone after God's own heart that He uses to lead others towards Him. Again, that should be extremely exciting for you and hopefully lend some comfort too.

Now, that's just me, but here's what James has to say...

/JAM 1:2-3

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, //knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.\

/JAM 1:4

And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.\

Or how about the example of Job who lost everything and got it all back plus some... Now, I use Job as an extreme example, because we're probably never going to experience anything even remotely close to that in our lives.

Because of this, I think the story of Job always helps to put our lives into perspective. We may not always get what we want, when we want it all of the time, but we're likely never going to experience what Job went through... And, God pulled through for him, so I think He can pull through for us too.

Just like we learned about in the first half of our lesson waiting on God has its benefits...

Let's take another example and look at the story of Noah and the Ark. This man trusted God and believed every Word He spoke.

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There might be no better example of a person who demonstrated patience and persevered through the circumstance better than Noah.

It took Noah 120 years to build a boat that can hold tens of thousands of animals... and he did it on dry ground. He then had to listen to the sound of rain hitting the top of this boat for 40 days non-stop.

And then what... for three months after that, he just floated around playing card games with his family that were probably driving him nuts by this point anyway?

That is... until he finally came to a stop. Then, he had to wait in anticipation for 221 more days until the land was finally safe enough for him and his family to exit the ark.

That's patience! And, again... We're looking at Job and Noah to give us some extreme examples. Because, it helps remind us that if God can help them in their extreme circumstances, then it stands to reason he can help us in ours too.

I want to read a poem for us that Pastor Rory has read a couple times and that many of you may have heard before.

The poem is titled Don't Quit, and that's exactly what the poem is about... not quitting....

/Don't Quit

When things go wrong as they sometime will,
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.\

/Don't Quit

Life is strange with its twists and turns
As everyone of us sometimes learns
And many a failure comes about
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up though the pace seems slow -
You may succeed with another blow\

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/Don't Quit

Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late, when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.\

/Don't Quit

Success is failure turned inside out -
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell just how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far,
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.\

That poem summarizes this lesson. How often do we quit when we feel like we just can't take it anymore? How often do we give up on people, because we lose patience with them?

My challenge to us is that we persevere through these times, because it always works out for our benefit.

And, Paul tells us the exact same thing in Romans...

Being that we're in the study of Romans, perhaps we should at least look up one passage before we end this lesson.

And, I can't think of a passage in Romans that more appropriately sums up this lesson than Romans Chapter 5, Verses 3 through 5...

/ROM 5:3

But we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;\

/ROM 5:4

And perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;\

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/ROM 5:5

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.\

That's beautiful. That's Paul summing up the lesson.

So again, my challenge for you today as we end this lesson is to be patient.

Be patient with people. Be patient with God. Be patient with the circumstances in your life. And, persevere through it.

Persevere through the tough times by remembering the promises of God, both for you and for other people who may come into your life as well.

Our closing song today is Mountain of God by Third Day...

/CLOSING SONG

Mountain of God - Third Day\

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/JER 29:11

‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’\

/1 PE 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, //casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.\

/JUD 1:24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, //to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.\

/CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

God, thank You for teaching us to be patient. And, thank You for teaching us to persevere, even when we want to quit, having faith that You're working everything out. And, I pray that You give us the endurance we need to get through anything we're going through, and to keep our focus on You and Your Word. We pray that You continue to shape the messages from this pulpit that are an accurate reflection of Your person, Your thinking, Your work, Your reputation, and Your essence. And we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, and in Christ's name... Amen.

/Thanks for coming!
Thanks for watching!
Thanks for listening!

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