

PATIENCE

Through faith and patience we will inherit all the promises of God.
(Hebrews 6:11 - 20)

A definition of patience is “confidently submitting yourself to the care of someone other than yourself.” Patience is a process. Everyone must develop it.

It Happened So Suddenly

For several weeks a strange feeling of something crashing through my window would come upon me as I sat in my car. I would jolt back in my seat, seeing nothing, and pray in the spirit.

After finishing a week of television production on a series titled, “Dealing with People’s Emotions,” I drove home. On the off ramp, it happened. A truck in front of me struck something on the road. The object shot at me, blowing a clean hole through the passenger side front window and leaving me limp as I continued to drive to the stop sign. It happened so suddenly. Not knowing what had happened, except that glass and blood were everywhere, I thought, *Father, am I out of your will?* Seeing a large hand palm up, I knew my life was in my Heavenly Father’s hand. The thought came to me, *Son, be patient! What was intended for evil I will turn around for good.* My impression was that this one would take awhile.

Leaning my head out of the window so someone could see I needed help, I waved at a friend who was passing by. Just then, a highway patrolman turned the corner. Within minutes the rescue squad pulled into the gas station where I had driven and parked the car.

It was very interesting to me that I never had any pain, trauma, or loss of consciousness through the entire event. It was like I was in a cocoon of peace on a mission.

A lady came up to my window. She said she regularly watched our TV program, “The Love of God,” and that she had called the Christian networks to pray for me. She stood there and prayed with me along with a good friend of mine who was with the paramedics. The Lord had surrounded me with His presence and His people.

I was frustrated that I was unable to continue my plans. I was late for dinner, and my wife didn’t know what was happening. Even though my car was a mess, and I was bleeding, I answered their questions. I knew I was alright, but no one else appeared to think so. They cared for me, and I knew I needed to talk to God about the next step. *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your path.”* (Proverbs 3:5-6)

For many years I had seen the power of God work wonderful healings and miracles for people. We would speak to the mountains of problems to move and they would move, many instantly. (Mark 11:22-24) I had not been a patient for many years, but now it was my turn.

Help in Time of Need

As the ambulance drove up, lights flashing and sirens screaming, the Lord whispered to me, “Son, be patient. Let them set the teeth, and I will cement them!” When I heard God’s direction, I released my faith and permitted them to place me in the ambulance. Otherwise, I was going home. (Be it done to you according to your faith. We walk by faith and not sight.) It looked bad, but I knew God is good. I took the opportunity on the way to the hospital to testify to my caring attendants about the loving care of my Heavenly Father who was going to turn this around and that not one of my bones would remain broken in Jesus’ name.

God’s promises are true. Never speak otherwise or acknowledge the problem. Speak God’s promise. You may have the problem, but don’t let the problem have you. God is greater and will deliver those whose hearts are set on Him. Speak aloud what God says, Let yourself, the Lord, the devil, and others hear that you believe God.

At the first hospital, my wife greeted me at the ambulance. I was relieved that she knew I was alive and where I was. We praised the Lord that He would be honored, and good would come out of this for many people.

The emergency room was totally packed that evening. Several people whom I had not seen for many years were there. Revival broke out. The Lord, the people, and the staff permitted me to pray with others in their time of need. What a joy and a privilege to help them look to God and to believe God together to see each of us through to victory.

The Lord knows that when we are going through trials, we need to take our eyes off ourselves and our condition. This is why He had Job pray for his friends. As we look to the Lord and seek to help others in our time of need, God will help us. I would not have been able to pray for those people if I had not been in that place at that time. Divine appointments are made in times of trials, problems, and need.

A moment's difference either way and I would have died when the pipe struck me. The X-rays revealed that my top jaw was broken four inches, the bottom jaw six inches, and the palate split open. The jaws and teeth could be moved in any direction. The bleeding was the result of a large gash that went through my cheek when the mirror hit my face. Because of the extent of what had occurred, I was referred to another hospital in another city. Another caring friend of ours, who had heard about what had happened, arrived at the hospital and drove Diana and me to the next city.

It is good to have believing friends around you when problems happen. Often people withdraw from others when things get tough. God never intended for us to fight the good fight of faith by ourselves. When trials occur, the Lord will give others the opportunity to bless you and believe God with you as you have stood with them in their time of need. Be with those who encourage your faith in God. Withdraw from those who discourage you; pray a blessing on them and love them, but don't listen to their unbelief. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.

The accident had occurred at 4:00PM. We arrived at the second hospital at 10:00PM. The emergency room was crowded. When a person is healthy, it is easy to forget how many people are suffering and going through problems.

The Lord had arranged for the head orthodontic surgeon from another hospital to be at the emergency room that evening to care for me. He took a cast of my mouth for the upcoming surgery which would allow him to set my teeth as the Lord had said, and then the Lord would cement the teeth.

At 1:00AM, I was placed in a hospital room in the heart section because there were no other rooms available. In the bed next to me was a man with a chronic heart condition. He had undergone several heart surgeries over the past year, and they were going to run more tests in the morning. We believed God to touch his heart and circulatory system.

In the morning, they ran the tests on him and found that everything was fine. He was sent home, and I had the room all to myself. As the Lord would have it, I was not to be disturbed. The Lord was with me.

Principles Related to Patience

Laughter filled the room. The Lord spoke to me, “Son, do you remember the series you were teaching about patience? You were so impatient you never finished it! I am going to give you the rest of the series.” For the next day and a half, the Lord began to lay out His word and principles related to patience so I could “teach the people how to go through the mountain.”

Time is our friend, and God has an appointed time for everything under heaven. Through faith and patience we will inherit all of the promises of God. Things happen in life, but God will turn what was intended for evil around for good. What He has intended for blessing will happen if one believes and patiently trusts Him, continuing in the faith.

Many people pray for patience, not realizing they already have it. Patience is a fruit of the believer's new spirit. (Gal.5:22) God has given you all the faith and patience you need, but it needs to be exercised and developed, which occurs in times of temptation, trial, and test. (James 1:2-4) *"Let patience have its perfect work that you may be mature, lacking nothing."*

The Lord works in time to define, refine, and mature His purpose in us. The key to patience is knowing and trusting that God has everything under control. We can patiently wait for something we know we have coming. Impatience comes when people do not think that something is happening, and they have lost their hope.

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

"Hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." (Romans 8:24-25) (Also note Romans 4:17-25)

Patients confidently submit themselves to the care of another: trusting that things will turn out all right. Does God know what He is doing with my life? The Lord says He knows His plans for my life, plans for good, not evil, plans to prosper me and to give hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11-12) Whether I live or die, the Lord will see me through to glory with Him. A Christian cannot lose.

Trials and temptations happen in life, but faith is proved. The Lord says to rejoice in Him when things happen. He has everything under control, and He will turn it around when we continue in the faith. Our faith will become defined, refined, and mature. (James 1:2-4) We will know that if God is for us, who or what can be against us? Nothing can separate us from God's love and presence. (Romans 8:31-39)

Some things happen for a reason or a purpose which is often not immediately evident. We may not understand what or why it is happening, but the Lord says he will give us wisdom and understanding. (James 1:5, Ecclesiastes 8:1) Time often shows many things for what they really are. Continue in the faith in God, and you will gain understanding.

The Lord told me to tell people that the reason there does not appear to be a light at the end of the tunnel is because there is a bend in the tunnel. Just continue to hold onto Jesus and keep going.

Don't look at all of the ups and downs in life. Keep looking at the finish and the Finisher, Jesus. (Hebrews 12:1-2) Keep going, and God will keep His word and promise to you. Call things that be not as though they are. (Romans 4:17-25) The final point of faith is that you rest and rejoice in the fact that it is done, and you will see it. You then go about life's daily business, knowing it is taken care of because you gave it to God.

A patient cannot do anything about it anyway. We just follow what we are told to do, if anything. Our life and the plan for our life is in God's hands. Therefore, enjoy God's presence in your life as well as His creation and His people. Do good as you obey God. In Jesus' name destroy the work of the devil. That is what Jesus did. Allow God to occupy your time with gladness of heart and enjoy God's blessing of life. Don't think about your own life, but allow God to occupy your time and affairs. (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20, Palms 23)

God's Plan and Purpose Continue

I am certain I could have been doing something "better" than lying in a hospital bed with tubes in my arms (if I was thinking about my own life). The Lord had other plans.

God had not caused the accident, but He knew it was going to happen. He had his provision waiting for me. He was going to make the most of this situation to His glory and the good of His people.

“Just be patient, son. What was intended for evil, I will turn for good. Be patient!” There is a reason and a purpose for everything that occurs in life. The thief has come to steal, kill, and destroy, but Jesus has come that we might have life more abundantly. (John 10:10)

I was under God’s care. No thief was going to steal from me spiritually, mentally, physically, financially, or in my relationships. Yes, things were happening, but God was in control.

On Wednesday evening at 8:00PM (two days after the accident), I was wheeled into the operating room for a four hour surgery. The next morning I again heard laughter. Upon opening my eyes, I saw my doctor laughing. “Randy, if you didn’t have pain before the surgery, you certainly will after what we had to do. It all went well.” It was nice to see my doctor laughing, like God was laughing. It is all under control. “Let them set the teeth, and I will cement them.”

On Friday afternoon I was able to go home. My mouth was completely wired shut. A gap was left between two front teeth so I could drink. Interestingly, there was still no pain, as the doctor thought I would have – no pain after the accident and no pain after surgery.

On Sabbath morning we went to church to praise the Lord. I wanted to thank God together with His people for His loving care, and I wanted to be in God’s presence. The praise music began. A new song was played, “Sing a Song of Dancing.” As we danced before the Lord, thanking God that he had performed every word that He had said, I felt the anointing of God’s Spirit rise up within me and come down from heaven. I took the microphone.

A hush came over the auditorium as I began to speak. (No one had told me that you cannot speak with your mouth sealed shut!) God wanted me to speak, so I spoke.

And I spoke each week for eight weeks with my mouth sealed shut, sharing testimony to God's faithfulness and glory, and how God does what He says if people believe it and are patient to see His word come to pass. Praise God!

As of this writing it has been over 12 years ago. The X-rays showed the palate and both jaws, et al, to be healed after three weeks. However (just like a patience lesson), I was not able to get an appointment to have the wires removed for eight weeks.

During those eight weeks, the Lord allowed the people to see a living example of how God can take someone through the mountain and overcome the trial God's way. I was filled with joy during the trial. People were filled with joy, tears, and compassion as I ministered about God's grace in time of need, faith, and patience.

Before the accident I needed a new windshield, and I needed to lose 10 pounds. I ended up with a new car, and I lost 15 pounds, leveling out at 10 pounds. No pain. No sorrow. No loss (except weight loss). The Lord turned evil around to my and His people's good and His glory.

An Opportunity to Care

One day, at a pastor's lunch meeting, a certain pastor kept following me around as I shared what the Lord had done. (I thank the Lord for the many pastors who prayed and led the people of God in prayer in my behalf.) The Lord was pulling His Body together to care for one another the way God intends. It sometimes takes a problem or trial before people have or take the opportunity to care.

We sat down for lunch, and he invited me to sit next to him. I had juice and soup. The man began to cry. I asked what was wrong, and he said, "Randy, will you forgive me." (I had never met the man before!) He continued, "I listened to what some people said about you, and I judged you. But now after meeting you, you are not at all like what I was

informed. I should have known better than to judge someone without ever getting to know him myself. Will you forgive me?”

By then I was crying also. What a wonderful honest man of God! What a joy when men and women of God can get together and love each other! Be patient. It is happening. The Lord loves us all, and the good work He has begun He is faithful to complete and perfect it.

The Lord never does anything to accomplish isolated events. He touches many aspects of our lives when He does something. His blessing is passed on to affect many people even for centuries to come.

Weekly I had to go in for examinations of my head and teeth. While sitting in the waiting room for hours (patience lesson), the Lord gave me the privilege and opportunity to meet many people I otherwise would not have met. People were there with broken bodies, families, minds, frustrated, depressed, poverty stricken. Just the kind of situations Jesus came to set people free from. Jesus wanted to love these people in their time of need and see them through the tunnel to abundant life. People want hope and life. I told them about what Jesus had done for me and they received him.

An awareness and compassion for people fills your life with God’s love when you know what they are going through. What is so wonderful is that in Jesus, God will help people through you. Tell them to put their life in God’s hands. Receive Jesus. Give up their old life. Keep going in God. Do not give up. (Joshua 1:6-9)

Throughout the weeks following the accident, the people in the ministry became aware of an increased need to pray for, encourage, and help their pastor. What a joy filled my heart as God’s people stood with me in the work of the ministry. Many had expressed how they thought nothing bad could ever happen to Pastor.

Many more things are continuing to happen as a result of the day of the accident when God said, “Be patient, son; what was intended for evil I will turn to good. Be patient. Let them set the teeth and I will cement them.” (The teeth are as good as before the accident - not one tooth was lost).

You don't know what all the daily events will be in your life and future. In Jesus Christ, you can know where you will be forever.

Jesus Christ said, *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who lives and believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live. And he who lives and believes in me will never die.”* (John 11:25)

In Jesus you can have an abundant life right now as well as forever. However, we must learn to daily refuse the thief, trust God and His word, not relying on ourselves or others, but rather obeying God's word. We must continue in the faith confidently, patiently allowing God to work in our lives and knowing that He is working out His good plan and future for us and others.

A Prayer of Faith

Father, in Jesus' name, you know what I am going through. Help me submit myself to your loving care. Forgive me for any doubt or anything that would hinder your best for my life. I know that you are turning to good what was intended for evil, so that you will be glorified, and I will be blessed. Jesus, I praise you and give you thanks. I put my hope, life, and trust in you, Jesus my Lord.

TIPS FOR PATIENCE IN TRIALS

- Find God's promise. (Romans 4:16-23)
- Receive and believe God will do what He says. (Numbers 23:19)
- Rejoice and thank God it is done. Thank God He is greater than the trial.

- Forgive everyone and confess any known sin in your life, receiving God's forgiveness.
- Persevere and continue in faith. (Joshua 1:6-9)
- Act on God's Word. Go about God's daily business. (Isaiah 40:28-31)
- Rest confidently in the Lord. Humble yourself under God's mighty hand. In due season He will bring it to pass. Cast all your cares upon Him for He affectionately cares for you and watches over you. (I Peter 5:6-7, also I Peter 2:23)
- Remember: Watch your thinking. What is intended for evil, God will turn for good.
- We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus who loves us. God loves you. He knows what you are going through. (Hebrews 4:14-16) He has a provision for you. Nothing can separate you from His love. (Romans 8:26-39)
- God will not allow you to suffer more than you are able to bear and will provide an avenue of escape. (I Corinthians 10:11-13)
- Tell the devil, in Jesus' name, "You cannot steal from me - spiritually, mentally, physically, financially, or in my relationships."
- Rejoice in the Lord always. Praise the Lord and thank the Lord He is seeing you through to victory! (Psalm 46) Develop patience. Let patience have its complete work so you can be mature in Christ, not wavering so that through faith and patience you can inherit all things in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-9, 9-12, James 1:2-12, and Romans 5:1-6)
- God has everything under control. You must trust that your life is in His hands. It will be good. Don't be afraid or discouraged. God is with you and will not leave or forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5-6)
- Do not look at all the ups and downs of every day; look at the finish and the Finisher of your faith (Jesus). (Hebrews 12:2-5) The Lord and your faith in God determine the outcome. Ask yourself, "What is going to be the outcome of this matter?"
- When it all looks hopeless (no light at the end of the tunnel), remember there is a bend in the tunnel. Hold on to Jesus and keep

going. There is light at the end of the tunnel, and Jesus is your light *in* the tunnel!!!