

WINNING LIFE'S BATTLES

Impatience

TEXT: Luke 8:5-8, 11-15

INTRODUCTION: We completed our study of Daniel and looked at some Biblical issues related to that marvelous book. Tonight we begin a different type of study. I call it "WINNING LIFE'S BATTLES." Week by week this spring, we are going to look at one or two major problems, difficulties, or sins that most of us have to deal with, at least one time or another.

The good news is that to get help with life's problems, we do not have to even pick up the phone, much less stay on hold forever. We just have to pick up the _____ book for life, the Bible, and find what it says concerning our issues. You know the Bible does not tell you how to hold a golf club, but it tells you what to do after you have wrapped one around a tree or thrown it in the lake. The Bible does not even mention computers, but it tells you how to keep the _____ that come by way of computer from ruining your life and family.

What I am going to try to do as we move through this series is to just be your _____ in journeying through the pages of Scripture to the places where God tells us about these various problems and shows us how we can overcome them and have the victory.

To try to get this series off to a good start and kind of get everybody liking what we are going to do, I thought I would start with a problem none of us ever have.

This evening we are going to consider the battle with impatience. Actually, the word impatience or impatient does not even appear in the _____ King James translation. It appears only once in the New King James in **Job 21:4 where Job asks, "Why should I not be impatient?"** Is that not how many of us _____ when we are impatient? Do we not look at the situation and think ourselves _____ in feeling and being impatient?

Yet I believe when we examine the whole counsel of the Word of God on the subject, we will see a _____ very different from our own and very different from Job's. We will see that impatience is very much a problem with which we do and should battle. In fact, even in our text where we begin today, we will see a surprising benefit in the _____ of patience.

Luke 8:5-8, 11-15 5 "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. 6 Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. 8 But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts,

lest they should believe and be saved. 13 But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. 14 Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience.

Our text today is from one of my favorite parables of Jesus. However, this evening I am not going to do an exposition of the text. I have in the past preached an expository sermon from this text, and I probably will again in the future; but for today one word in the text is what draws our attention. That word is “_____,” for Jesus is saying that to receive the Word of God with a noble and good heart will bear much _____ with patience.

So let us ask...

I. WHAT IS IMPATIENCE?

A. We must start by asking, “What is patience?”

1. Patience is not a mere willingness to _____ or a lack of urgency.
2. The word “patience” comes from both the Greek and French words for “_____.”
3. The dictionary definition of “patience” is
 - a. Bearing pains or trials calmly and without _____.
 - b. Showing forbearance under provocation.
 - c. _____ despite opposition or adversity.
4. The biblical definition comes from two words often translated “patience” or “patient” but with two primary elements:
 - a. _____
 - b. steadfastness
5. Therefore, when we talk of the biblical quality of patience, we are talking about steadfast endurance. **Patience = Steadfast Endurance**

B. When we speak of the problem or temptation of impatience,

1. We are not speaking of an eager desire or mere unwillingness to wait.
2. Impatience is restlessness, or being short _____ at irritation, _____, or opposition.
3. **Impatience is caused by a _____ of steadfast endurance.**

II. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PATIENCE?

- A. Patience in the believer's life is a key ingredient to maturity and _____ bearing.** Luke 8:15 But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience.
- B. Patience is the mark of true _____ in one's life.** Luke 21:19 By your patience possess your souls.
- C. God wants us to be patient with _____ as He is patient with us.** Rom 15:5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,
- D. Patience is the evidence of _____ faith and increasing love.**
1 Thess. 1:3-4 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,
4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.
- E. The Old Testament _____ are an example to us of patience.**
James 5:10-11 10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended by* the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.
- F. The church of Ephesus was commended for its patience.** Rev. 2:1-2 1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

III. HOW DO WE WIN THE BATTLE OVER IMPATIENCE?

- A. Patience is developed more _____ than directly.**
- B. To be patient we need the patience of Christ.** 2 Thess. 3:5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.
1. This is only available to the _____.
 2. The steadfast _____ of our Lord kept Him faithfully on the road to death on the cross.
 3. As we grow to be more like _____, His character of patience, steadfast endurance, is increased in us.
- C. There are certain qualities in Jesus, that when developed in us, will produce patience.**
1. **A strong _____ in God's power and control.**
Mt. 26:51-53 51 And suddenly, one of those *who were* with Jesus stretched out *his* hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. 52 But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who

take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?

2. **A deep desire to do God's _____.** John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
3. **A resolute commitment to believe and _____ God's Word.** Luke 4:4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, '*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*'"
4. **A certainty of hope in God's _____.** Heb. 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

D. That is why _____ are often the catalyst for the growth of patience.

James 1:2-3 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

1. Trials can test and strengthen our confidence in God's power and control.
2. Trials can test and strengthen our desire to do God's will.
3. Trials can test and strengthen our belief in and obedience to God's Word.
4. Trials can test and strengthen our hope in God's promises.

E. Questions to ask yourself when a lack of patience is revealed:

1. **Why am I not _____ of God's control of these matters?**
2. **What does God want of me that I am not _____ to do?**
3. **What does God's Word say that I do not _____ and obey?**
4. **What _____ of God do I doubt?**

CONCLUSION: Would you join me in asking God to use the trials of our life to reveal to us individually the _____ of our impatience? Then let us ask Him to _____ our confidence, desire, obedience, and hope.