

Reading: James 1:1-4

Topic: Developing The Virtue
Of Patience

INTRODUCTION: When one becomes involved in the work of God, whether it be as a _____ or a leader, one of the requirements to be effective in the _____ is the virtue of patience.

I. LACK OF PATIENCE:

A. Produces Trouble:

1. Abraham received a _____ from God, but when the promise didn't come to pass as quickly as he expected, he used human reasoning to try to explain away the _____. Gen. 15:1-3
2. When God spoke again the promise and made it more _____ to Abraham, then his faith was renewed again to _____ and wait for the promise. Gen. 15:4-6
3. When time passes and the promise doesn't come to pass, Sarah and Abraham come up with a _____ to help God out with His promise but it only produced _____. Gen. 16:1-5
4. When God comes again to Abraham and renews His promise, Abraham doesn't _____ it, and instead attempts to explain to God that he and Sarah already have _____ out the promise. Gen. 17:15-18
5. God overrules Abraham's explanation of the _____ plan and emphatically affirms the promise again in very clear _____ - he and his wife will have a son. Gen. 17:19
6. Finally, twenty-five years after the first _____, the reality of what God stated did come to pass and God showed that He has His own _____ to fulfill His promises. Gen. 21:1-3
7. However, the lack of _____ of the part of Abraham and Sarah produced a _____ and conflict that has been in the world even to this very day. Gen. 16:11,12; 17:20

B. Produces Harm To Ministry:

1. King Saul received a divine appointment as the first _____ of Israel, and he began his leadership as an anointed and _____ man. I Sam. 10:1,6
2. Just as the prophet had spoken, the Spirit of God came upon Saul and he was _____, and even did prophesy with the prophets. I Sam. 10:9,10
3. One of the virtues that Saul failed to develop in his _____ was patience, and that lack of patience led to his downfall and the _____ of the continuance of his kingdom. I Sam. 13:7-14

II. DEVELOPING PATIENCE:

A. Joseph – A Lesson In Patience:

1. Joseph was only a young lad when he had his special _____ about sheaves of grain and the sun, moon and stars _____ before him.
2. Dreams like this would excite any young individual, but the _____ to the fulfillment of those dreams was very long and very _____. Ps. 105:16-19
3. Joseph was seventeen years old when his brothers sold him for a _____ to the Ishmaelites, who in turn took him to Egypt and sold him on the _____ market to an Egyptian named Potiphar. Gen. 39:1,2
4. His life got better for a time, then it got worse for a while and Joseph went from the _____ of Potiphar's house to being in prison for a _____ accusation of attempted rape of Potiphar's wife. Gen. 39:17-20

B. The Path To fulfillment:

1. In prison, Joseph's life was not easy, but he found favor with the keeper of the _____, and was put in charge of the other _____. Gen. 39:21-23
2. Finally, Joseph's big opportunity seem to have come when two of Pharaoh's _____ ended up in the same prison with Joseph, but alas, the guy that Joseph was _____ on to help him, forgot about him, for two full years. Gen. 40:23
3. Two years later, Pharaoh had his special _____ and the butler remembered Joseph who had interpreted his dream when he was in prison. Gen. 41:1,12
4. In one day, Joseph went from being a common _____ to becoming the vice-president of the land of Egypt. Gen. 41:14, 39-41
5. The time line of Joseph's life:
 - a. had his dreams as a teenager
 - b. was 17 years old when he was sold by his brothers.
 - c. was 30 years old when Pharaoh made him ruler. (13 years as a slave and a prisoner)
 - d. prepared for the famine by storing up grain for 7 years (37 years old)
 - e. two years later his brothers showed up and bowed before him. (39 years old)
 - f. from the time of his dreams until the fulfillment was more than 22 years!

III. INSTRUCTIONS ON PATIENCE:

A. Jesus Taught It:

1. Jesus stated that in order to become _____ and stable, one must become fruitful and productive and that takes time and _____. Lk. 8:15
2. Jesus taught about the last days and the end times and judgments that would _____ upon the world and stated that we would save ourselves by remaining _____. Lk. 21:19
3. Jesus had to rebuke two of His very impatient disciples who wanted to call _____ down from Heaven and burn up some people who _____ them. Lk. 9:54

B. The Word of God:

1. When we receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost, we have received the _____ that will help us to live right and produce the _____ of the Spirit in our lives. Gal. 5:22,23
2. Often we are offered the picture of a _____ filled with only great things, but in reality, the Word of God teaches us that we will have _____ to develop _____ in us. Rom. 5:3
3. When we are involved in various ministries, we are put through _____ in order to develop and be mature with _____. 2 Cor. 6:4

C. To All Involved In Ministry:

1. We are called, not only to be involved in _____, but also to be an example to those we are working with and one thing we must have in working with people is _____. 2 Tim. 2:24
2. We often are looking for and expecting instant _____, but we need to have the understanding of having _____ and waiting until God's time comes. James 5:7

CONCLUSION: Time and testing teach us _____ and in turn, the production of experience and hope which when fulfilled gives us the desired _____ that we hoped for.