

God: Will You Please Be Patient with Me?

In Exodus 2, the history of Moses demonstrates God's patience with man. Moses had a compassionate sister who sought his well-being as he floated in a basket. Then, opportunity arrived and he was raised by a Godly mother! Moses then grew up being prepared to be a leader. And, as yet unknown to Moses, the soon to be leader of God's people. Moses knew Pharaoh and his belief in the gods of Egypt. He was educated in the ways of Egypt. After visiting the Hebrew people Moses killed an Egyptian for beating a Hebrew. Later, when questioned by his own brethren, Moses learned that they knew about his killing of the Egyptian. Pharaoh also found out and Moses fled for his life. Moses was told to lead God's people from Egypt (Exodus 3). However, it was in God's timing — have patience!

When we want to develop patience there are steps we can follow — think of the letter “P”: *Pray, Plan, Pace, Practice, and Pause*. (1) **Prayer** is always the best way to begin. Moses' mother probably prayed diligently to save her son from being killed. By God's providence, Moses was spared. God had a plan. Patience was key. When God called Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3), he replied "Here I am." Moses answered God's call. He prayed to God frequently on behalf of the Israelites as they traveled toward the land of Canaan. (2) **Plan**. When waiting on God, we need to formulate a possible plan. Moses fled Egypt. He was defending God's people and tried to take matters into his own hands. Was he planning on killing all Egyptians? No. He knew he needed a plan. God provided freedom from slavery for a later time. If our “plan” is to do *nothing* then we may start to worry, or become upset, or blame God! Patiently plan for *action*. (3) **Pace**. When in the land of Midian, Moses needed to pace himself. He alone could not free God's people. He became a shepherd, got married, and had children (Exodus 3). Maybe Moses became discouraged or lost his zeal for helping his brethren. And yet, we do know he learned new skills and a new perspective on life. He began to let God take care of his life. When we find ourselves wanting to do great things for God (and it seems not to be happening), we may need to simply slow the pace and count our blessings. We may need to take smaller steps toward goals. Get your mind ready for delay and your attitude ready to accept challenges! (4) **Practice**. Since we live in a “instant gratification society,” we may need a healthy dose of “practicing self-discipline.” Moses was once used to palace life, but time spent with family was a greater blessing. Sometimes God teaches us that waiting is going to be better in the long run. Moses was in Midian many years before God called him to get the Hebrews out of Egypt. In the meantime he got to spend time with family. (5) **Pause**. When developing patience please “pause.” Stop and think about what God would desire for your life. Consider what you really want and why. Is it for God's glory? Moses was taught “right” as a boy and didn't forget God when he was grown. Moses became one of God's most humble servants (see Exodus 10; Numbers 12). The martyr Stephen tells of Moses in Acts 7. Can you wait for God to mold and make you ready for His service? It may take patience...don't worry.

There's a children's song called “**Have Patience**.” It goes like this:

“There was a snail called Herbert, who was so very slow. He caused a lot of traffic jams wherever he would go. The ants were always getting mad, the beetles they would fume, but Herb would always poke along and sing this little tune: **Have patience! Have patience!** Don't be in such a hurry. When you get impatient, you only start to worry. Remember. Remember, that God is patient too! And think of all the times when others had to wait for you.



When Herbert was much younger, he often got in trouble. Forgetting that he was a snail, he did things on the double. He'd crash through every spider web and with crickets he'd collide. 'Til one day Herbert's father took his speeding son aside...

Have patience...

As you can well imagine, there's a moral to this song. We may find ourselves behind a creeping snail! So if you we get impatient and easily disturbed, think about this little song and take a tip from Herb. **Have patience...** (Kevin, Susie, and their children know this song and will probably be happy to sing it to you...if you have the patience).

Bday/Anniv Lunch: ...when we can!

Bible Study: Consider your study of God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15) Make time to learn some Scripture that may apply to your life today...

NMCCH: collecting aluminum foil and kitchen trash bags (pick up is later...)

— THANK YOU for reading!