*Wednesday, February 16, 2011*

**Endurance**

Hebrews 12:1-3 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, (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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (3) For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. (KJV)

Do you know what that great cloud of witnesses is that we have surrounding us? How about having your own cheering section, the Holy Spirit and the people of God that are there to encourage you to continue moving forward? How about all of the people that God used to write His word as well as demonstrate what the end result is for those who patiently endure to the end? God has mapped out a course, a path of life for you to walk on, one that He drew up before the foundation of this world. However, one of the catches is that you should not be running ahead of our Lord, but rather waiting patiently on His instructions as well as His answer to your petitions.

Hebrews 6:10-12 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (11) And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: (12) That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (KJV)

You know, God did hear your prayer request the first time you made it. Now He is asking you to continue forward in your walk and trust that it will manifest in the proper time and place. It takes faith to operate in the patience of our Lord; and this is where many fall short and become discouraged, when they walk more by sight than faith. Some become slothful and even give up because they didn’t see the answer manifest when and how they thought it should. It will take faith on your part as well if you truly are going to endure to the end, letting patience have its perfect and complete work.

Romans 5:1-3 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (3) And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; (KJV)

Everyone is looking for peace; an inner peace that eliminates all the strife and contention that we see around us in this fallen world that we live in. This peace comes through faith; hearing the Lord personally, then stepping out and being a doer of His word and not just a hearer which gives us perfect results from above.

Romans 5:4-5 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: (5) And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. (KJV)

Again, we see that patience plays a big part of whether we are going to continue moving forward, or draw back and start regressing back to our old ways. Christ in you is your only hope of glory, and the only answer that we should be considering if we truly desire to make it to our final destination.

1 Peter 5:8-10 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (9) Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. (10) But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. (KJV)

So are you fighting the good fight of faith today, letting patience have its perfect work, or did you settle for the path of least resistance? As we see and are encouraged again, the Lord’s answer is never late but always on time, and will keep you in good standing if you wait on Him and never settle for a lie.