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FAITH AND PATIENCE

Have you prayed and then waited and waited for something, but it still has not materialized? I have. I have waited for my needs being met, for direction, and other things that took a while to be accomplished. In the book of Hebrews 6:10-12 it says: ***“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. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”*** V. 15 says, ***“And so, after he (speaking of Abraham) had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.”***

In the U.S. we have access to things so easily. We have instant food in the microwave. We have places we order from that deliver to our door. We have more food and clothing than any other nation. We like it. We enjoy the “luxuries” that most other countries do not have. When we do not see things happen quickly, we tend to lose patience. Since patience is a virtue, we must not lose it.

We do not like to wait. Yet, in the times of waiting is when God prunes us and causes us to grow in our faith. God is not a sugar daddy ATM machine that we pop a card in, and the money and needs come out. We receive everything by faith. Patience is developed through the trying of our faith. We are told in James 1:4 ***“But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”*** Think of it, developing patience brings complete maturity, and through patience we will lack nothing! How awesome is that? It has been said that Faith and Patience are the power twins. You cannot have one without the other for us to be complete.

A story about patience and faith. I love to grow things, especially avocados. I have planted hundreds of avocado pits in water, and they grow into small trees. I have given more away than I have planted. One day a friend brought me a huge avocado and told me it was from one of the trees that I started. It was the first fruit from the tree. I was so excited to hold it in my hand. I felt very connected. Even though I had started so many seedlings myself, I had never experienced any of mine that were planted in my yard to bear fruit. My husband told me they might not bear for a long time because they might need to be paired with another male or female avocado tree.

Several years ago, I planted one of the avocado plants I had started from seed. It grew quite well for a few years but had no blossoms or fruit. When a hurricane tore up Florida and our city, this little avocado tree was uprooted and laid on the ground. My husband replanted it and tied it off so it would not fall over. I prayed over that tree, calling it to be fruitful. The tree grew tall for a few more years but still had no fruit, but I kept believing it would be fruitful. And guess what, after patiently waiting, blossoms came and eventually brought forth fruit. I did not give up on that little tree. I had to have faith AND patience.

What is God teaching you through patience and faith? I am sure, like myself, that you have your days of being tested, but do not quit believing. He will surely bring to fruition the promises he has made!