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FAITH AND PATIENCE – THE POWER TWINS

In the book of Hebrews, the writer emphasizes the difference between works and grace. The Jews had their law and were bound by it. It was what they lived by. In chapter 1 the writer let's the "Hebrews" know that in times past God spoke through the prophets to the "fathers." This was how they learned how to live. Now something new is on the scene. He let's them know that God in the present days speaks through Jesus Christ. It was all new to them. He establishes salvation based upon grace.

In many parts of Hebrews, the writer speaks of resting in the finished works. How easy it is to say rest when they had always done "works" to receive approval. Grace was something new. You can't earn it. You can only receive it.

In chapter 6 he talks about these dead works and compares this to grace. He states that you can't have it both ways. If you give up grace for works, there is no salvation. Then the writer in vs. 6:12 tells them that ***"...through faith and patience inherit the promises."*** It is one thing to have faith to believe, but it is another to have patience until we receive. Faith started with their "father Abraham", and was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

How often do we have faith for something, but lack the patience needed to bring that faith into substance? Faith takes patience, and patience takes faith. We can have strong faith but have no patience, and we can void the promise. Likewise, we can have patience with no faith, and the promise will never materialize. These two "twins" work together.

Are you struggling with the "twins?" You aren't alone. James tells us that patience comes through tribulation. Don't ever ask for patience my friends because tribulation will come to see if you have learned patience. A good definition of faith and patience would be just believing God until it materializes. Don't rush it, and don't give up. God's timing is always perfect, even when we don't see things happening.