

# The Trial of Your Patience in the Storm and the Flood

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## I. Things I was told this week

### A. Text from my son when he heard about the flooded church basement

"I am so sorry about the church and the troubles. Insurance is a game of Satan that we are bound to as slaves. Transcending above this worldly matter is greater than attainable."

*"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom 12:18-21)*

"I love Romans 12; it is God's behavioral curriculum in 21 short verses. He gave us an observable expectation map for living in a Truthful way. We are currently presented with an opportunity where the ground is fertile to gather peacefully and heap some hot coals. So when can I come up (with any needed tools) and help heap some coals?"

### B. Advice from sanitation specialist who is cleaning basement:

If you push hard enough, the decisions of insurance people can be changed. I know two women who kept on and on until they finally got the insurance to pay. I guess the insurance people paid the claim just to get rid of the two women.

### C. A friend's story of when her church was being built here in town

She said that somebody ended up mad about every decision. In her despair she went to the cemetery to talk to her deceased dad. She asked him if carpet color really mattered in the whole scheme of things.

### D. Statement by a man passing by while I was shoveling snow:

I am sure of one thing. God didn't send this snow. Satan sent the snow.

## II. God's behavioral curriculum in 21 short verses

*Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

*Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

*Rom 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:*

*Rom 12:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.*

*Rom 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;*

*Rom 12:7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;*

*Rom 12:8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*

*Rom 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

*Rom 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*

*Rom 12:11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;*

*Rom 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;*

*Rom 12:13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.*

*Rom 12:14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.*

*Rom 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*

*Rom 12:16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.*

*Rom 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*

*Rom 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

*Rom 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

*Rom 12:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.*

*Rom 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*

## III. God uses trials to bring patience that will perfect us

*Jas 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

*Jas 1:3* Knowing this, that **the trying of your faith worketh patience.**

*Jas 1:4* But **let patience have her perfect work**, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

#### **IV. Patiently looking for the hope of the return of Christ**

*Rom 5:3* And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that **tribulation worketh patience**;

*Rom 5:4* And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

*2Th 3:5* And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the **patient waiting for Christ.**

*Rom 8:24* For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

*Rom 8:25* But if we hope for that we see not, **then do we with patience wait for it.**

*Rom 12:12* Rejoicing in hope; **patient in tribulation**; continuing instant in prayer;

*Heb 12:1* 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,**

*Heb 12:2* 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.

*Heb 12:3* For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

*Heb 12:4* Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

#### **V. Jesus taught that it takes patience to bring forth real fruit**

*Luk 8:9* And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?

*Luk 8:10* And he said, **Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God**: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

*Luk 8:11* Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God.**

*Luk 8:12* Those by the way side are they that hear; **then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts**, lest they should believe and be saved.

*Luk 8:13* They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which **for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.**

*Luk 8:14* And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with **cares and riches and pleasures of this life**, and bring no fruit to perfection.

*Luk 8:15* But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, **having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.**

*Luk 8:16* No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.

*Luk 8:17* For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.

*Luk 8:18* **Take heed therefore how ye hear**: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

#### **VI. Patience is a crucial link to experiencing the kingdom of God**

*2Pe 1:3* According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

*2Pe 1:4* Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

*2Pe 1:5* And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

*2Pe 1:6* And to knowledge temperance; and **to temperance patience**; and **to patience godliness**;

*2Pe 1:7* And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

*2Pe 1:8* **For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*2Pe 1:9* But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

*2Pe 1:10* Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

*2Pe 1:11* **For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

*1Ti 6:10* For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

*1Ti 6:11* But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, **patience**, meekness.

*1Ti 6:12* Fight the good fight of faith, **lay hold on eternal life**, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

#### **VII. Lessons and conclusion**

**A. The way we should deal with one another**

*Rom 15:1* We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

*Rom 15:2* Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

*Rom 15:3* For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

*Rom 15:4* For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, **that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

*Rom 15:5* Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

*Rom 15:6* That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Rom 15:7* Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

**B. The way a church is to function**

*1Th 5:11* Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

*1Th 5:12* And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

*1Th 5:13* And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And **be at peace among yourselves.**

*1Th 5:14* Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, **be patient toward all men.**

*1Th 5:15* See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

**C. The conclusion of the matter**

*Ecc 7:8* Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and **the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.**

*Ecc 7:9* **Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry:** for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.