**Patience: Being *Happy* while You *Wait* on the Lord**

Introductory Text: Psalms 27:14 and 37:7,9,34. Though *patience* is a *“fruit of the Spirit”* (Gal.5:22), I don’t always *wait well-* especially when it involves food, or purchasing something I’ve decided I need or want. Donna used to chide our little boys that *patience* was *being happy* ***while*** *you wait.* That’s a good definition, and one many of us need to hear. We may *wait* (in traffic or at the doctor’s office) because we have other real options, but we a far from *happy* while doing so!

**A Couple of Examples:**

* Saul at Gilgal, 1Sam.13:1-14.
* Abraham and Sarah, Gen.12:1-3; 15:1-6; 16:1-6; 17:1-8,15-21
* Job, Job 1:13-22

**Point? (a couple, actually)**

Though serving God faithfully requires patience, that wasn’t the *only* lesson being taught in these situations, cf. Jas.5:10-11; Col.1:11; 1Tim.1:16.

1. Through Saul, we learn that *patience/waiting on the Lord* means ***keeping His commandments******no matter what-*** losing our patience is never a justifiable excuse for sin, 1Sam.13:13-14.
2. Through Abraham and Sarah, **in addition to *patience,* we also learn:**
   1. ***Nothing is impossible with God-*** if He can fulfill a promise to bring a child to a couple who were 90 and 100 years old, He can handle “my” problems.
   2. **Trust and obey.** Have you ever wondered why God made Abraham and Sarah wait so long (25+ years, cf. Gen.12:1-4 with 21:5) for Isaac to be born? It wasn’t just a lesson in patience! It was for them to *grow strong in faith* and *trust,* Rom.4:19-25. It was to prepare them for what was to come, cf. Gen.22:1ff!
3. Through Job, we learn **that *patience* must be accompanied by *contentment-***regardless of how *much* or *little,* Job 1:21; 1Tim.6:6-8; Luke 12:15.

**Conclusions on *Patience,* and what it means to *Wait on the Lord:***

1. **We can’t always *make things work* or *work out* the *way* we want*.*** Will we be *patient* and *content, trusting* the Lord to know and provide what is best regardless of our desires? Or, be *impatient, greedy,* and *faithless* in thinking we know better than Him and forge ahead on our own? Will you *wait on the Lord?*
2. **We can’t always *make things work* or *work out when we want.*** I know roughly how many years Abraham and Sarah waited, learned, and grew, but I have no idea how long Job had to wait, cf. Job 42:10-17cf. Job 42:10-17. Will we be *patient?* Will we *wait, learn,* and *grow* that the Lord may bless and restore all and more than Satan takes?
3. **God will put us, or allow us to be put, in situations and circumstances in which we have no other choice but to *“Stand by”* and *“keep silent”* while the Lord *“fights for you,”* cf. Ex.14:13-14.** Will we be *fearful* and *faithless* (vv.10-13), or willing to *faithfully, patiently, wait on the Lord?*