



Heart-to-Heart

A Patient Heart; Chronic Annoyance In Marriage; and Beyond

Week 2 | Oct. 21 (PM) | Oct. 23 (AM) | 2013

"Love is blind but marriage is an eye opener." - Anonymous

Proverbs 16:32 "Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city."

PATIENCE from two vantage points:

1. The practical vantage point; patience is complicated.
2. The spiritual vantage point; patience has purpose.

Patience is complicated

"I'm extraordinarily patient provided I get my own way." - Margaret Thatcher

Romans 12:2

When we are annoyed, we have one of two choices: we can be put out with the other person or we can be patient with them.

Ephesians 4:2 (NLT)

Colossians 3:12b-13

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“bearing with one another” comes from the Greek word, forbearance and it has three definitions: to put up with; to hold up; to hold back

- “to put up with”

“Sometimes patience is kneeling before God, when you want to run.” -Anonymous

- “to hold up”

“Patience is a progressively learned grace.” – Dawn Bible Student Assc.

- “to hold back”

“God’s will cannot be measured by the level of ease or the level of difficulty; just because something is hard, it doesn’t necessarily mean it’s bad!” - Beth Moore

Galatians 5:22

John 15:4-5

When we spend time with Jesus - the seeds of His fruit (love, joy, peace, patience ...) take root in the soil of our heart and mind and as they grow, _____ .

James 1:2-4 (AMP)

Patience in James 1:3 is the Greek word “hupomone” and means *patience for circumstances, inspired by hope* (Job)

Patience in Galatians 5:22 is the Greek word “makrothumia” and means *patience with people inspired by mercy* (Matthew 18)

Trial works patience in us inspired by God’s hope and annoyance works patience in us inspired by God’s mercy for the other person!

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When chronically annoyed ask yourself:

1. What is the source of my annoyance – them or me?
2. Do I need hope inspired patience for this circumstance or do I need mercy inspired patience for this person and my relationship with them?

Patience is inspired by hope for my circumstances when I

Patience is inspired by mercy for others when I

Patience has purpose

“If we want to be happy in marriage, we will accept that marriage is designed to make us holy.” – Tim Keller

2 Peter 3:9

Galatians 2:20

PARAPHRASE of Psalm 27:13-14 “I will remain confident in my marriage. Confident that I will see the goodness of the Lord in the places of my marriage that are hard and for the things in my husband that I wish were different. I will wait for the LORD and the change *He is working in me* instead of waiting for my husband to change. I will be strong in all He calls me to say and do (or *not say and not do*). I will take heart today and wait for the Lord to someday show up in my marriage in ways I never dreamed possible.”

Further Study

1. List the things that Titus 2:3-5 states young women are to be encouraged about and learn from older women. Circle the one or two at most, which you sense you need Christ to form in you? Commit those to prayer this semester.

Note: the Greek definitions that are in parenthesis were added by Sherilyn

Titus 2:3-5 (NAS)

“Older women ... encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible (self-controlled), pure (a sacred place or temple), workers at home, kind (good natured, pleasant, agreeable), being subject to their own husbands (to arrange under) so that the word of God will not be dishonored (blasphemed, spoken evil of).

2. Read and ponder::

When we choose to be *patient* over being *put out* with the one who annoys us, it can do the following:

- Bring out the BEST in us, instead of the worst. Colossians 1:27
- Humble us to be more like Jesus, instead of becoming more selfish. Philippians 2:1-8
- Shatter our pretense and call us to be more transparent. Ephesians 4:20-25

Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-12 as a marriage verse - “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us (as wives), but life is at work in you (our husbands).”

3. Read and meditate on the following verses paying close attention to what God says about patience in each one:
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:14-24
 - Mark 18:21-35
 - Luke 8:4-15
 - Romans 12
 - Galatians 5:13-26 (try to read in Amplified Bible if possible)
 - James 5:7-11
 - If you have a difficult marriage, you may want to read the online articles at the links, and as described below.

4. If you have a difficult marriage, consider reading the online articles at the following links.

How I Learned to Stop Criticizing and Be Nice to My Husband by Nina Roesner

A Christian woman writes about making peace with the Bible's command that "the wife shall respect her husband" and how her respect changed her marriage.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/sexes/archive/2012/12/how-i-learned-to-stop-criticizing-and-be-nice-to-my-husband/266314/>

Do You Have a One-Way Marriage? Anonymously Written

Many people cannot conceive of enduring hardship as I have. But I have been convinced that God has wanted me to keep the vows I made before Him. Here are five essentials for surviving and thriving when you are the only one trying to build your marriage.

<http://www.familylife.com/articles/topics/marriage/challenges/spiritually-mismatched/do-you-have-a-one-way-marriage#.Ugkqx238KeYhttp://www.familylife.com/articles/topics/marriage/challenges/spiritually-mismatched/her-husband-wouldnt-speak-to-her-for-three-years%23.Ugkl-238KeY>