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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

BE PATIENT WITH GOD

Patience is a rare commodity in this world. Waiting is difficult for many of us. Generally, we want what we want, and we want it NOW! Advertisers tell us all the time that we “deserve” their product and we deserve it NOW! Waiting at the doctor’s office or in the check-out line at the store creates frustration and even anger in the minds of the impatient. Tragically, it is the case, that such impatience carries over in one’s relationship with God.

Have you ever prayed to God for something only to be disappointed that your prayer was not answered immediately? Did it cause you to doubt the effectiveness of prayer or even to doubt God? God assures His faithful children that we can be confident that if we ask “according to His will, He hears us” and thereby we “know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him” (1 John 5:14-15). The question is not whether God hears and answers prayer, but rather am I willing to wait on His answer? God may answer prayer with a yes, or no, but we may also need to wait for His answer. God not only knows HOW to answer prayer, He also knows WHEN to answer prayer.

The Bible tells us, in Psalms 27:14, “Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!” This passage presents a different perspective to the exercise of patience. We expect God to be patient with us, but should we not also be patient with Him? Consider this admonition from James 5:7-8, “Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.” Yes, we must be patient as we anticipate the Lord’s return. We must accept that the Lord operates on His timetable, not ours. The prophet Isaiah assured God’s people, “But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.” (Isa. 40:31).

Yes, be patient with God. Do not allow the circumstances of this life to cause you to doubt God or His promises. Always remember that God is faithful and that He will never leave you nor forsake you as you remain faithful to Him (1 Cor. 1:9; Heb. 13:5). May God bless you with the patience to serve Him faithfully.