

Dear Friends,

Well, it was finally our turn to catch the plague. I began showing symptoms late in January and was diagnosed the next day. Being a generous person I shared it with Debi :-( So Alpha was closed for the first two weeks of February and reopened on Valentines Day. I've recovered well but will you please pray for Debi as it has triggered some of her other health issues and recovery is slow.

Watching the problems we are having as a nation motivated me to review some information about IMPATIENCE. This topic has always interested me. I'm not exactly sure why! I don't consider myself impatient but maybe I should ask others if they agree. The research I reviewed was trying to find a cause for all the anger expressed because of impatience. Cell phones, Facebook, online games, and super fast media have created an expectation of instant access but it is causing sensory overload. Medical imaging has revealed that the same brain areas affected by drug addiction are the same areas affected by being 'connected' no matter the source. Maybe that is why power outages create so much anger in people?

The story is told that bad habits are easy to get and hard to lose! Unfortunately, good habits are hard to get and easy to lose! PATIENCE IS A REALLY GOOD HABIT BUT HARD TO GET!! Thankfully it is worth the trouble getting it! Patience is highly valued in the Bible and I'm always surprised when a Christian casually comments about how impatience they are. I have heard people say that you should never pray for patience because you are asking for troubles and James does say that. James 1:3-4 is honest that trouble and problems are a source that hopefully causes us to grow in patience. It is true there is a price to pay to acquire patience but it's worth the struggle. I truly believe that God allows problems, pain, and suffering to motive us to grow closer to Him so we can represent Him in our daily lives.

There are two words normally translated patience in the New Testament. One is of a person who is unswerving in loyalty and faith in God even when going through very difficult times, like the last 2 years. The other word literally means 'to be long in spirit' in other words 'to not lose heart.' To be patient while being offended and injured by others -to choose to not get revenge is a great goal for our Christian witness and pleasing to Jesus who set for us that example.

So as Covid continues, politicians rant, and war in Europe is a threat still our one goal is to be pleasing to God and allow our little light to shine as the darkness seems to grow!

Thank you for your prayers and support for Alpha and Debi and me. We remain faithful to our ministry as people are in need of guidance and prayer during these times.

God Bless you!  
Richard.

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