

Shameless Persistence in Prayer

June 14, 2015 AM

James 1:2-4

- 2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
- 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
- 4 But **LET PATIENCE HAVE HER PERFECT WORK, THAT YE MAY BE PERFECT AND ENTIRE, WANTING NOTHING.**

THE PERFECT WORK OF PATIENCE *provides you with spiritual skills and life experience that make you successful in your pursuit of God.*

Hebrews 5:14

"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of **FULL AGE** (*mature, complete, adult, perfect*), **EVEN THOSE WHO BY REASON OF USE** (*practice, habit*) **HAVE THEIR SENSES EXERCISED** (*to train, discipline*) **TO DISCERN** (*to distinguish*) **BOTH GOOD AND EVIL.**"

Hebrews 12:10-11

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; **BUT HE FOR OUR PROFIT, THAT WE MIGHT BE PARTAKERS OF HIS HOLINESS.**

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward **IT YIELDETH THE PEACEABLE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS UNTO THEM WHICH ARE EXERCISED THEREBY.**

SPIRITUAL SKILLS WE ACQUIRE IN THE PAIN OF TRIALS:

1. **Trials bring us to points of crisis, moments of decision, which define us for the rest of our lives**
2. **Learning I am not exempt nor entitled** - *don't be surprised or offended when the trial comes, be ready!*
3. **Managing your mind & thoughts** - *your mind is the gatekeeper for life or death!*
4. **Managing your emotions** - *find peace in god - don't let your emotions toss you to and fro!*
5. **Learning to live by God's strength**
6. **Learning to never give up in prayer**

LEARNING TO NEVER GIVE UP IN PRAYER

Luke 18:1-8

- 1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, **THAT MEN OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY, AND NOT TO FAINT;**
- 2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:
- 3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.
- 4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;
- 5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her **CONTINUAL COMING** she weary me.
- 6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.
- 7 **AND SHALL NOT GOD AVENGE HIS OWN ELECT, WHICH CRY DAY AND NIGHT UNTO HIM, THOUGH HE BEAR LONG WITH THEM?** (*...will he delay long over them?*)
- 8 **I TELL YOU THAT HE WILL AVENGE THEM SPEEDILY. NEVERTHELESS WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMETH, SHALL HE FIND FAITH ON THE EARTH?**

PRAYERLESSNESS

1. LOSS OF DESIRE FOR GOD
2. PRIDE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY
3. POWERLESS & BLIND TO RESIST TEMPTATION
4. POWERLESS & BLIND IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE
5. LOSS OF FAITH
6. LOSS OF DISCERNMENT AND CONVICTION IN HOLINESS
7. LOSS OF EXPECTANCY FOR ANSWERED PRAYER
8. LOSS OF PEACE & JOY
9. LOSS OF SALVATION

Luke 11:5–10

5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

8 I say unto you, **THOUGH HE WILL NOT RISE AND GIVE HIM, BECAUSE HE IS HIS FRIEND, YET BECAUSE OF HIS IMPORTUNITY** (*shameless persistence*) **HE WILL RISE AND GIVE HIM AS MANY AS HE NEEDETH.**

9 **AND I SAY UNTO YOU, ASK, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU; SEEK, AND YE SHALL FIND; KNOCK, AND IT SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU.**

10 **FOR EVERY ONE THAT ASKETH RECEIVETH; AND HE THAT SEEKETH FINDETH; AND TO HIM THAT KNOCKETH IT SHALL BE OPENED.**

Our culture and technology have :

- *trained us to expect and demand instant gratification and immediate response*
- *robbed us of the skill of articulation and the skill of enduring in prayer*

God deems the cultivation of relationship more important than our instant gratification or quick fix.

“Importunate prayer is a mighty movement of the soul toward God. It is a stirring of the deepest forces of the soul, toward the throne of heavenly grace. It is the ability to hold on, press on, and wait.” E.M. Bounds “The Necessity of Prayer”, Chapter 6

James 5:16–18

16 **THE EFFECTUAL** (*energeo - at work, active, accomplish, perform*) **FERVENT** (*beg, beseech, impore*) **PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILETH** (*to be strong enough, to have power*) **MUCH.**

17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

“The wrestling quality in importunate prayer, does not spring from physical vehemence or fleshly energy. It is not an impulse of energy, not a mere earnestness of soul; it is an inwrought force, a faculty implanted and aroused by the Holy Spirit. Virtually, it is the intercession of the Spirit of God, in us; it is, moreover, ‘the effectual, fervent prayer, which availeth much.’” E.M. Bounds “The Necessity of Prayer”, Chapter 6

Romans 4:17-22

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

18 **WHO AGAINST HOPE BELIEVED IN HOPE**, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19 **AND BEING NOT WEAK IN FAITH, HE CONSIDERED NOT HIS OWN BODY NOW DEAD, WHEN HE WAS ABOUT AN HUNDRED YEARS OLD, NEITHER YET THE DEADNESS OF SARA'S WOMB:**

20 **HE STAGGERED NOT AT THE PROMISE OF GOD THROUGH UNBELIEF; BUT WAS STRONG IN FAITH, GIVING GLORY TO GOD;**

21 **AND BEING FULLY PERSUADED THAT, WHAT HE HAD PROMISED, HE WAS ABLE ALSO TO PERFORM.**

22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

Romans 10:13-18

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

17 **SO THEN FAITH COMETH BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.**

18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

1 Corinthians 2:9-14

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But **GOD HATH REVEALED THEM UNTO US BY HIS SPIRIT: FOR THE SPIRIT SEARCHETH ALL THINGS, YEA, THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD.**

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but **THE SPIRIT WHICH IS OF GOD; THAT WE MIGHT KNOW THE THINGS THAT ARE FREELY GIVEN TO US OF GOD.**

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, **BUT WHICH THE HOLY GHOST TEACHETH; COMPARING SPIRITUAL THINGS WITH SPIRITUAL.**

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

John 16:12-14

12 I have yet many things to say unto you, **BUT YE CANNOT BEAR THEM NOW.**

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH:** for he shall not speak of himself; but **WHATSOEVER HE SHALL HEAR, THAT SHALL HE SPEAK: AND HE WILL SHEW YOU THINGS TO COME.**

14 He shall glorify me: **FOR HE SHALL RECEIVE OF MINE, AND SHALL SHEW IT UNTO YOU.**

Hebrews 11:1-3

1 **NOW FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN.**

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORD AND PRAYER

1. TRANSFORMS US INTO GOD'S IMAGE

2 Corinthians 3:18

"But we all, WITH OPEN FACE BEHOLDING AS IN A GLASS THE GLORY OF THE LORD, ARE CHANGED INTO THE SAME IMAGE FROM GLORY TO GLORY, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

2. CHANGES OUR REALITY AND PERSPECTIVE FROM THE NATURAL TO THE SPIRITUAL, FROM THE EARTHLY TO THE HEAVENLY

2 Kings 6:17

"And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, OPEN HIS EYES, THAT HE MAY SEE. And THE LORD OPENED THE EYES OF THE YOUNG MAN; and HE SAW: and, behold, THE MOUNTAIN WAS FULL OF HORSES AND CHARIOTS OF FIRE ROUND ABOUT ELISHA."

3. EMPOWERS US TO ENDURE AND EVEN REJOICE IN GREAT ADVERSITY AND SUFFERING

Acts 7:54–60

54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

55 BUT HE, BEING FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST, LOOKED UP STEDFASTLY INTO HEAVEN, AND SAW THE GLORY OF GOD, AND JESUS STANDING ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,

56 AND SAID, BEHOLD, I SEE THE HEAVENS OPENED, AND THE SON OF MAN STANDING ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

59 And THEY STONED STEPHEN, CALLING UPON GOD, AND SAYING, LORD JESUS, RECEIVE MY SPIRIT.

60 And HE KNEELED DOWN, AND CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE, LORD, LAY NOT THIS SIN TO THEIR CHARGE. AND WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS, HE FELL ASLEEP.

4. CHANGES OUR CITIZENSHIP MAKING US STRANGERS AND FOREIGNERS ON EARTH

Hebrews 11:13

"THESE ALL DIED IN FAITH, NOT HAVING RECEIVED THE PROMISES, BUT HAVING SEEN THEM AFAR OFF, AND WERE PERSUADED OF THEM, AND EMBRACED THEM, AND CONFESSED THAT THEY WERE STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS ON THE EARTH."

5. MAKES US WILLING TO MAKE GREAT SACRIFICES IN THIS LIFE

Hebrews 11:24–27

24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 CHOOSING RATHER TO SUFFER AFFLICTION WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD, THAN TO ENJOY THE PLEASURES OF SIN FOR A SEASON;

26 ESTEEMING THE REPROACH OF CHRIST GREATER RICHES THAN THE TREASURES IN

EGYPT: FOR HE HAD RESPECT UNTO THE RECOMPENCE OF THE REWARD.

27 BY FAITH HE FORSOOK EGYPT, NOT FEARING THE WRATH OF THE KING: FOR HE ENDURED, AS SEEING HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE.

6. CAUSES PRAYER TO BE INTIMATE WITH GREAT CONFIDENCE

John 11:41–43

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, **FATHER, I THANK THEE THAT THOU HAST HEARD ME.**

42 **AND I KNEW THAT THOU HEAREST ME ALWAYS: BUT BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE WHICH STAND BY I SAID IT,** that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

“GEORGE MUELLER, the great Victorian Christian and social reformer, tells a story of persistent prayer in his diary:

In November 1844, I began to pray for the conversion of five individuals. I prayed every day without a single intermission, whether sick or in health, on the land, on the sea, and whatever the pressure of my engagements might be. Eighteen months elapsed before the first of the five was converted. I thanked God and prayed on for the others. Five years elapsed, and then the second was converted. I thanked God for the second, and prayed on for the other three. Day by day, I continued to pray for them, and six years passed before the third was converted. I thanked God for the three, and went on praying for the other two. These two remained unconverted.

Thirty-six years later he wrote that the other two, sons of one of Mueller’s friends, were still not converted. He wrote, “But I hope in God, I pray on, and look for the answer. They are not converted yet, but they will be.” In 1897, fifty-two years after he began to pray daily, without interruption, for these two men, they were finally converted—but after he died!”

Patterson, B., & Goetz, D. L. (1999). Deepening your conversation with God (Vol. 7, pp. 105–106). Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers.