



I can be one of the most impatient people when preparing to leave and go somewhere. When I'm ready to go, I'm ready to go! It doesn't matter if others aren't ready—I am eager to hit the road. Perhaps you can relate to this feeling in some way. Whether it's waiting for someone to get dressed or waiting for an appointment to start, impatience can quickly take over. This struggle isn't limited to everyday situations; it often creeps into our spiritual lives. Learning to wait on God can be difficult, especially when things are out of our control. But why is it so important to remember this patience?

Humility Through Trials (2 Corinthians 12:7)

In 2 Corinthians 12:7, Paul shares that a "messenger of Satan" was given to keep him from boasting. Paul had many reasons to feel prideful—he was an apostle, established numerous churches, baptized countless believers, and even performed miracles. These experiences could easily have led Paul to think highly of himself. But the trials he endured, including his "thorn in the flesh," kept him humble.

Humility is essential for anyone seeking godliness. James 1:2-4 reminds us that trials can serve a greater purpose—they remind us of our limitations and our need for God. Problems have a way of refining our focus, helping us see that although we may be capable of great things, God is ultimately greater. Have you ever had a thorn in the flesh? We all have. These challenges help us realign our priorities and remind us that we need God's guidance in every part of our lives.

Dependence on God (2 Corinthians 12:8)

Paul pleaded with God three times to remove his affliction. His repeated prayers show his deep faith and recognition that only the Lord could provide relief. Though his request was not granted in the way he hoped, Paul's persistence demonstrated his reliance on God.

We all face moments in life when only God can help us. Sometimes, no matter how much we pray or plead, God doesn't promise to remove our struggles immediately. Psalm 130:5-8 tells us to wait for the Lord, for in Him, we find redemption. Life will never be without its storms, but we are promised safe passage through them. It's comforting to know that God cares for us and hears our cries, even when the answers don't come as quickly as we'd like.

Trusting God's Grace (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Despite his hardships, Paul learned to trust in God's grace. God's response to Paul's pleas was simple: "My grace is sufficient for you." Paul came to understand that through his weaknesses, God's strength was made perfect. This grace—unmerited favor—sustained Paul through his trials and allowed him to grow in faith.

We don't have to face our challenges alone. Whether battling sickness, dealing with anger, or facing financial struggles, the same grace extended to Paul is available to us. Often, it is through these hardships that we learn to become better people. Colossians 3:1-2 reminds us to set our hearts and minds on things above, using our struggles as opportunities for growth.

Remembering Our Purpose (2 Corinthians 12:10)

Paul found contentment in his trials because they brought honor and glory to God. He recognized that his suffering was insignificant compared to what Jesus endured for humanity's sake. As Paul grew stronger through his trials, he understood that the true purpose of life was to glorify God in all things.

We, too, exist to glorify God. We obey His commands, love one another, and treat people respectfully and kindly. Becoming the person God wants us to be is a journey, not an instant transformation. This is why it's crucial to allow God to work in His own time, not ours.

Waiting on God

Learning to be patient and trust God's timing is one of our hardest lessons. But it's also one of the most rewarding. Are you waiting on Him today?