

## Finding and Following God's Plan for Your Life

### Faith and Patience - Class 5

**Hebrews 6:11-12 NKJV** "And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but **imitate** those who through **faith and patience inherit the promises.**"

1. Those who are sluggish do not inherit the promises.
  - a. Sluggish, i.e. (literally) lazy, or (figuratively) stupid:—dull, slothful
2. Imitate, or follow the example of those individuals in your life that are inheriting the promises.
  - a. What will work for the one will work for you!

**Hebrews 6:12 AMPC** "In order that you may not grow disinterested and become [spiritual] sluggards, but imitators, behaving as do those who through faith (by their leaning of the entire personality on God in Christ in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness) and by practice of patient endurance and waiting are (now) inheriting the promises."

1. It is through faith and patience we inherit the promises of God. Anything we receive from God will require faith and patience, including following His plan for your life.
2. God's part was providing us the promises by His grace, our part is receiving those promises by faith.

**Hebrews 6:13-15 NKJV** "For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had **patiently endured, he obtained the promise.**"

1. God made the promise
2. Abraham patiently endured = Obtaining the promise

*God's promises are always obtained by trusting in God. Where we often struggle is the time it takes to obtain the promise. If we can patiently endure the time in between believing and receiving we will always obtain what God has spoken including the fulfillment of his plan towards your life.*

**Hebrews 11:1 NKJV** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

1. Faith is not some future event or thing, faith is a real spiritual force, substance, title deed, and the proof of things hoped for
2. The Bible word hope means a confident expectation.
3. Faith is the substance and evidence of things not yet seen with your natural eyes. But you have faith, which is the substance and evidence of that thing.

**Romans 10:17 NKJV** "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

1. Notice that in order for you to have faith for something, you had to be hearing something. You cannot be in faith without hearing what God has said.

2. Faith comes by hearing. Faith that is based on having heard something is not enough to patiently endure. We must continue to put God's word before our eyes. Faith comes by hearing in the present. What is God telling you right now.
3. If you are going to follow what you believe is God's plan for your life, you've got to know that God told you to do that, otherwise you cannot do it in faith.

**James 2:17 NKJV** "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

**James 2:17 AMPC** So also faith, if it does not have works (deeds and actions of obedience to back it up), by itself is destitute of power (inoperative, dead)."

1. When you begin to see the Lord's direction, by faith you are to act on it.
2. God can course correct you as he sees fit but the important thing is don't stay stagnant, slothful, and lazy.

**James 1:2-4 NKJV** "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

1. God is not the one testing your faith. You have an enemy that will do the testing. Your flesh will test you as well.

*When you have heard from God, you are standing in faith, trusting God, you have put corresponding actions to your faith (not just sitting back waiting for God to make it happen), your faith will be tested.*

*It's important to start using your faith right now, in the small things in life, so that when big decisions are at hand, you know how to stand, and you have developed patience.*