

Heart to Heart

Devotional Thoughts for Women

February 2018

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The Patience Song

Do you have a favorite song? There is a song that I sing that is *not* the favorite of anyone in our family, because it is called *The Patience Song*. It is usually sung by me when someone is showing particular impatience about something, and they need a gentle reminder to take a deep breath. After several years of hearing the song, all I have to do now is ask, “Do I need to sing the *Patience Song*?” That question is immediately met by an emphatic “No!” or a rolling of the eyes or maybe even a daring glare. Truth be told, there have been a few times when I have been called out for my own impatience, and then I get asked, “Do you want me to sing you the *Patience Song*?” I just have to laugh at getting a dose of my own medicine.

A lack of patience has cost me – on more than one occasion. For instance, I burned a hole in a new blouse because I was too impatient to iron it correctly. I needed to use a damp handkerchief to protect the delicate fabric, but I was in a hurry and didn't want to take the time to mess with all of that. Result? One new lovely shirt in the trash. And I can't count how many of my husband's dress shirts I ruined over the years because I was too impatient to check pockets for ink pens – I just wanted to get the laundry going. Sometimes, being impatient can cost a lot more than a few ruined shirts.

In Genesis 12, God called Abraham to leave his homeland to go to a country God would show him and give to him and his descendants. At this time, Abraham was 75 years old and childless, but God

promised him that he would have descendants as numerous as the dust of the earth. (Genesis 13:15-16) Fast forward ten years to Genesis 16:1 which says, *Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children.* Granted, ten years is a long time to wait for a child, and Sarah's patience (and trust in God) had run out. She decided to take matters into her own hand, and came up with the “brilliant” idea of giving her maid Hagar to her husband as another wife so he could have children by her. A year later, Ishmael was born to Hagar and Abraham, and as a result, Sarah was even more unhappy than before. God's plan and His will were not to be thwarted, even by an impatient and unhappy woman. The son of promise, Isaac, was finally born to Abraham and Sarah about 14 years later. Sarah ultimately received the longed-for child, but at a cost of great jealousy, grief and pain as Hagar and Ishmael were banished, and the descendants of the two sons of Abraham fought and continue to fight even until this day...all because Sarah became too impatient.

Patience is one of the fruits of the Spirit we are to grow in our lives. (Galatians 5:22-23) Another word for patience is long-suffering. It is cultivating an attitude of perseverance. Sometimes, we suffer long as we wait when waiting feels like a burden that is weighing us down. Having patience means that we are able to stand up under that burden and bear it. We stand strong under it; we don't let it crush us.

Patience is required in our relationships with other people and in our own relationship with God. There are people who try our patience and give new meaning to “suffering long”! But in those cases, we must strive to remember that God suffers long with us and is always patient, therefore, we must practice patience with others. Sometimes our patience is tested when it comes to waiting on the Lord. We pray, we wait, we beg, we plead, and all we hear is silence from above. We wonder, “Is God listening?” “Does He care?” What do you think Sarah was thinking as she waited day after day, then year after long year for God to keep His promise and bless her and her husband with a son? In such instances, it is all too easy to

become impatient and try to take matters into our own hands, but when we try to exert our will over God's will, it never turns out well. God's timing is always perfect, and patience trusts in it.

The next time you are tempted to become impatient, maybe the *Patience Song* will help you to remember some important things...

Have patience, have patience, don't be in such a hurry! When you get impatient, you only start to worry. Remember, remember, that God is patient too, and think of all the times when others have to wait for you. ~Heather Pryor

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.
~Psalm 27:14

Ladies Bible Class & Breakfast – Mark your calendars for **February 17th**. We will continue our study of the book of Hebrews. (Book Lesson #5) Read the entire book of Hebrews, if you haven't already, or read it for the 2nd (or 40th!) time.

Search the Scriptures

“Practicing Patience?”

1. Who couldn't wait for Samuel to arrive to offer the sacrifice so he did it himself? _____
2. Who waited 120 years for rain? _____
3. Who waited in an Egyptian prison for years before becoming second in command of all the land? _____
4. Who waited for years for a son then gave him back to God to be in service to Him all his days? _____

RECIPE CORNER

"She...provides food for her household." ~Prov. 31:15

Want to practice patience? Here's a recipe that requires lots of it!

GERMAN POT ROAST

1 beef roast (about 3 ½ – 4 lbs.)
1 tsp. salt
2 tsp. ground ginger
2 ½ cups water
2 cups cider vinegar
2 medium onions, sliced
1/3 cup sugar
2 T. pickling spices
1 tsp. whole peppercorns
8 whole cloves
2 T. cooking oil
16 gingersnaps, crushed fine

Place the roast in a large, deep glass dish. Combine the salt and ginger and rub all over the roast. In a saucepan, combine the water, vinegar, onions, sugar, pickling spices, peppercorns, and cloves. Bring to a boil and pour over the roast, turning to coat. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for two days, turning the roast over twice a day. After two days, remove the roast and pat dry. Set aside the marinade. In a large Dutch oven, place cooking oil and brown the roast on all sides. Strain the marinade and reserve the onions and spices. Pour 1 cup of the strained marinade and half of the reserved onions and spices over the roast. (Refrigerate remaining marinade.) Bring to a boil. Cover, reduce the heat and simmer roast for 3 hours or until the meat is fork tender. Remove roast to a serving plate to rest. Strain cooking liquid. Measure 3 cups of strained cooking liquid (add in reserved strained marinade if necessary) and pour into a skillet. Bring to a full boil and boil for 1 minute. Add the crushed gingersnaps and cook until gravy is thickened. Serve sliced roast with gravy.