

Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. How great this woman's faith was! Even Jesus recognized that and told her so. If she could have stopped and gone without persisting, she could have lost that miracle! But she kept persisting, she never wanted to quit. She knew that the Master could not leave her the same. She knew

Jesus would do something. Though she saw clearly that Jesus had kept quiet about her request, she couldn't go away.

How often does this happen to us too; we pray and receive no immediate answer, so we shrug our shoulders and give up. However, this woman did not give up, instead, she persisted and kept "crying out". Jesus then stated the reason why He had not answered her: *I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel*. Still, the woman persisted; and, most significantly, did so even as she worshiped Him. This persistent act of faith eventually caused Jesus to change His mind and give her that which she asked for! The same can work for us if we apply faith and learn to persist!

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The Most Important Question of Your Life...

If you died tonight, do you KNOW if you'd go to heaven?

The Easy Steps to KNOW for Sure:

== A == Acknowledge you are a sinner

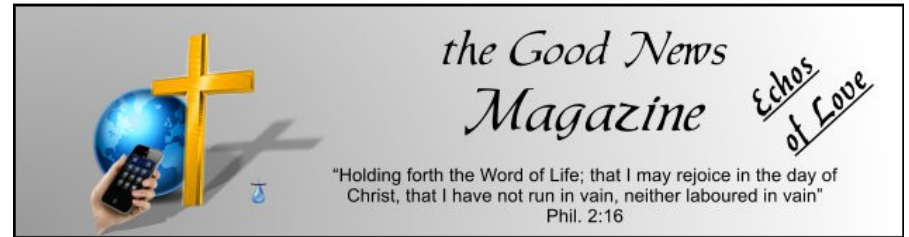
ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

== B == Believe the shed Blood of Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved.

The wages of sin is death* but the GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

== C == Confess to God you know you are a sinner and call upon Him to come into your heart.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:13



Persistence, Patience, and Perseverance

by Justus Ondieki

I see a woman getting up early in the wee hours of the morning. She prepares some porridge and then packs all that she needs in a basket ready for work. She carries a machete which she almost forgets and hands it over to her older boy, that boy happens to be me. Well it is very cold out there; we quickly tread to the field. There is so much a head of us. Plenty of work needs to be done. It is preparing the field for sowing. I have to help mum cut the unwanted vegetation and prepare the ground for planting. It takes a lot of time and hard work preparing the ground. It needs a diligent person to do all that.

After the ground has been fully prepared, there is sowing time and harvesting time. Between the sowing time and the reaping time there is always a long wait... and this is what I call patience. Before the harvest time comes, the crops planted endure a lot. The good farmer always knows what the crops will have to go through

before they mature and be ripe for harvest. The storms of the night, the winds that blow boisterously, the pests and weeds that destroy crops, the floods, the intense sun; all these are just some of the setbacks the farmer may encounter during the waiting period. If crops were destroyed due to any of the above, the farmer has to ensure that he starts all over again to sow, this I call Persistence or Perseverance.

Now let's get started by looking into 1Peter 1:7 *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

There is so much we can learn from the above scripture.

However, the journey of salvation is often very challenging and it takes a lot of patience, persistence, perseverance, prayer and faith in

God to make it through. Jesus Himself told His disciples that in the world they would have many tribulations, but we must endure all this. The Apostle Paul also emphasized this in Romans 5:3-4

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Tribulation worketh patience, not in and of itself, but the powerful grace of God working in and with the tribulation. Patient sufferers have most of the Divine consolations, which abound as afflictions abound. It works needful experience of ourselves. This hope will not disappoint, because it is sealed with the Holy Spirit as a Spirit of love. It is the gracious work of the blessed Spirit to shed abroad the love of God in the hearts of all the saints.

A right sense of God's love to us will make us not ashamed, either of our hope, or of our sufferings for Him. It is when we go through trials and tribulations that we experience or learn how patience works in us. At our hour of trial we learn of God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises; of His power in supporting us; and of our own frailty and weakness; and so we are taught humility, thankfulness, and resignation to the will of God.

It is important to understand that the moment we pray to God and make all our requests known to Him, He knew that long before we could petition

our requests. Therefore, just as the Psalmist said,

I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry, (Psalms 40:1)

We have to be careful not to rush ahead of the Lord as that shows lack of patience. And when we give up easily or prematurely we lack perseverance! Psalm 27:14 says, *Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.* Psalms 37:9 says, *For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.* Isaiah 40:31 says, *But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

And my favorite verse James 1:2-4 says, *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.* Patience is not just sitting around doing nothing but it is hopeful endurance, expectant waiting in the Lord. It is also important to understand that during waiting time we go through thoroughly training to be ready at all times for what is to come.

Romans 8:25 says, *But if we hope*

for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

There is, of course, a close relationship between having patience and persevering. We can have all these only when we operate in faith.

Faith and prayer play a very vital role when it comes to perseverance, patience and persistence. We can't do this without faith. We can only hope in faith knowing that God's Word and promises are true. We can be patient in waiting for something to happen, but we might not persevere in prayer. To persevere in other words means to continue doing something despite all external forces that are trying to discourage us from doing so. Apostle Paul knew better when he said in Ephesians 6:18,

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Dear friends, let's never give up when it comes to waiting on the Lord. If we give up easily we can never get the results that we so desired. The Lord always answers our prayers. His timing is not our timing. To Him a day is like a thousand years and vice versa. Have you waited for so long for an answer to some need but it tends to take long?

Be patient. Are you tired of asking the Lord for one thing over and over again? Be persistence. Do you ever feel the circumstance you are under now can never end? Just persevere, for there is a reward kept for you by our Lord. Matthew 7:7 says, *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:* The story of the Canaanite woman is a great encouragement to us all. In Matthew 15:22-28, the Bible says, *And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of*

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