

seems to be happening, when prayers seem to go unanswered, when God seems so far away that the most spiritual growth takes place in our lives. That we learn to become more like Him.

I want to remind you that God is not deaf to our prayers. He is not blind to our constant tears, to our desires, and to our needs. All He is teaching us is to learn waiting on Him. If He is making us wait, there is a very good reason for it. If He is telling you “no” today, maybe it’s because He has a better “yes” waiting for you tomorrow. If He is keeping you in the same place you’ve always been today, maybe it’s because He’s helping build your faith before you enter your promised land tomorrow. If He is not healing you or bringing you victory today, maybe it’s because you will have a greater testimony when He waits to help you be an overcomer tomorrow. Wherever you are at

today know that God is right beside you and that there is a purpose for you. Even if that purpose is to wait.

Don’t give up just because you don’t see anything happening today. Maybe there is nothing physically happening that your eyes can see but there is definitely something happening in the spiritual realm as you learn to rely on Jesus. Don’t allow your waiting period to make you hopeless about what tomorrow will bring. Instead, let it build your faith and give you even greater hope for what God has in store for you. He made some of the greatest men of faith wait. Don’t be discouraged if He makes you wait as well. He will come through for you, just like He came through for them.

Remember, God gives us strength to endure but not to escape. Be patient, persist and persevere for God has not forgotten about you! We are

always in God’s mind and thoughts. Don’t you ever give up!
I sum up this with Revelation 3:10 *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.* = = =

The Most Important Question of Your Life...

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

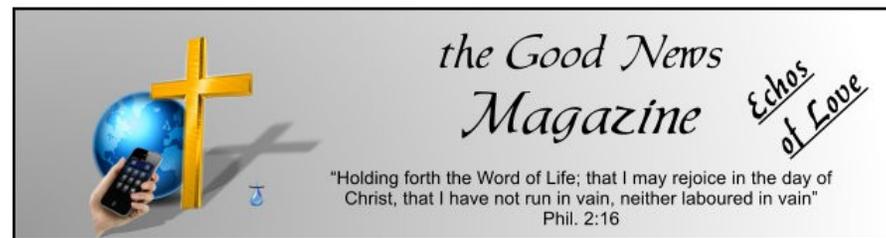
The Easy Steps to KNOW for Sure:

== 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



Endure To The End

by Justus Ondieki

As a young boy I loved having good things. Every time my dad who worked away from our home, would visit us and I would ask him, “Dad, did you bring me a shirt?” He would then respond, “No my boy, but I have something better for you.” Then he would give me some biscuits. This kept happening until he finally one day surprised me. “Check what’s in that box”. To my amazement, I was so happy to see a brand new shirt. With excitement I jumped up and down running to my mum to show her my new shirt. This later I learned was persistence.

Luke 18:1-8 says, *And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because*

this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

This woman sought justice from a judge who knew not God. However, due to the woman’s persistence the judge gave into her request in order to avoid becoming weary. Jesus then goes on to say that if this is what an unjust judge does, think how much more God will do for His own elect when they cry day and night to Him. And then Jesus goes on to relate faith and persistence, implying that if we give up and don’t persist then we lack faith!

Jesus is trying to teach us a very important lesson here that we ought to pray always and never give up. There are so many examples He used to elaborate this in teaching us about persistence. In Luke 11:5-9 we also read this: *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; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? 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. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. 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.

This man is trying to get some bread from a friend who has already retired for the evening bed and is not willing to get up again. Yet, because of his persistence the friend will rise and give him as many as he needs.

Are we really asking as we ought to? Are we persistence in our asking? Do we always need quick solutions and responses? Where is our patience? Patience is true piety. Those that rejoice in hope are likely to be patient in tribulation. We should not be cold in the duty of prayer, nor be weary of it. Prayer is needful at all times, even during tribulation and distress, whether inward or outward. This should be made

without ceasing; as saints we should watch unto it with all perseverance; as followers of Jesus we should pray always, and not faint; never give out and over, or be discouraged or murmuring against God.

2Thess. 3:5 says, *And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.*

Enduring to the end requires faithfulness to the end, as in the case of Apostle Paul, who told Timothy, *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:* (2 Timothy 4:7). Obviously, this is not an easy task. It is intended to be difficult, challenging, and, ultimately, refining as we prepare to return to live with our Father in Heaven and receive eternal blessings. We cannot return to our Heavenly Father's presence unless we are clean, and so we must continue to repent. First, it requires the Savior's redemptive power and to endure to the end it requires the Holy Ghost, who will both guide and sanctify us. Patience here plays a big role in our Christian walk.

Have you ever thought why Jesus delayed to heal Lazarus? He could have come and healed him when he was still alive. Instead, He waited to raise him from the dead when he was

already in his grave. God could have made David become king the day after he was anointed. Instead, he waited for so long to rise to the throne, many of those years spent fearing for his life, hiding out and running away from king Saul. God could have spoken to Moses in the desert about sending him to help free His people from slavery 40 days after he ran away from Egypt. Instead, He made him wait for 40 long years. God could have given Abraham the son He promised him when he was still a young man. Instead, He waited until he was 100 years old. God could have answered prayers and met the needs of these precious men of God much quicker, but He didn't. He made them wait instead. This, He often makes us do the same.

God sometimes makes us wait for healing to come after we've been praying for years and there is no sign of recovery. He makes us wait to fulfill His call in our lives after He puts the desire and passion in our hearts to serve Him in a certain way. He makes us wait to give us the desires of our hearts. He makes us wait for direction when we are stuck at a dead end and we don't know where to go or what to do. He could answer that same prayer that we've been praying for years every night in a millisecond. That same prayer that has been bringing you to tears. That same prayer the

longer it goes unanswered, the more it makes you question whether God even hears.

He kept Moses in a desert for 40 years. Joseph in a prison cell for 10 years. Abraham without a child for 100 years. David on the run for many years. And maybe He is keeping us right where we're at for the same reason He kept these men for so many years: to build our faith and learn patience, perseverance and persistence.

Sometimes God keeps us waiting in order to build our dependence on Him when we are barren and empty to see if He is truly all we desire and all we need. God wants to build our trust in Him when the storm keeps raging, the battle keeps going and breakthrough and victory doesn't seem near. And sometimes the waiting period of our lives is the most important time in our life. It is during this period when nothing

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The above is an echo of love from the July 2015 edition of the Kenya-USA magazine: The Good News Magazine. The full edition, including a word search puzzle and more God-honoring articles are at:

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