

INSPECTING IMPATIENCE

Ephesians 4:1-3

God's Word encourages us to inspect our impatience and deal with it biblically

I. THE ESSENCE OF IMPATIENCE

A. DEFINITION

1. Oxford Dictionary: Restless irritability
2. Chuck Circle: A lack of perspective that manifests itself in selfish annoyance
 - An example is seen with Samson in Judges 14:1-3

B. TWO DISTINCTIVES

1. A lack of perspective about delays
2. A lack of perspective about disrespect

II. EXAMPLES OF IMPATIENCE

A. ABRAHAM WITH HAGAR

1. God's Favor - Genesis 12:7 and 13:14-16
2. Abraham's Faith - Gen. 15:1-6
3. Abraham's Failure - Gen. 16:1-2, 15-16

B. JOB WITH GOD

1. His Reaction - Job 4:1-5
2. His Response - Job 21:4-8
3. His Request - Job 23:3-7
4. Elihu's Rebuke - Job 33:8-13
5. Elihu's Reminder - Job 35:13-16

C. ISRAEL WITH GOD AND MOSES - Numbers 21:4-5

1. Their discouragement (4)
2. Their disgust (5)
3. Their dilemma - see 14:28-35

D. SAUL WITH SAMUEL - I Samuel 13:5-14

1. Saul's Problem (5-7)
2. Saul's Panic (8-9)
3. Saul's Predicament (10-12)
4. Samuel's Pronouncement (13-14)

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III. EXHORTATIONS FOR OVERCOMING IMPATIENCE

A. ACKNOWLEDGE GOD

- In all of life's circumstances

1. Like Job in Job 1:21
2. Like Joseph in Genesis 45:5-8

B. BE CHRISTLIKE

1. Enduring harsh treatment with patience and politeness - I Peter 2:19-23
2. Overlooking transgressions - Proverbs 19:11

C. ENDURE HARDSHIP

1. Wait on the Lord - Psalm 27:14
2. Be not weary in doing good - Galatians 6:9
3. Depend on God's glorious might - Colossians 1:11
4. Run your God-given race with patience - Hebrews 12:1

D. SEEK UNITY - Ephesians 4:1-3

1. Be appropriate (1)
2. Be careful (2)
3. Be focused (3)

CONCLUSION:

We can all learn to be better waiters

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. - Hebrews 10:36

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