

Note from Pastor Steve

I am sitting in Indiana with my father in the hospital. The last four weeks have been ups and downs with his health. One day he is getting better then next it is something new to deal with. We do not know what is to come. The one thing I know is that we wish his health to improve today so he will be able to go home tomorrow.

The problem with this and with so much in our life is that we want our problems fixed now. We have gotten used to things coming so quickly that we need it all done now with patience being something that is hard to come by. We know we need it, but do not want to seek it or even ask for it. Because it takes places like I find myself in today for it to grow. Waiting for healing. Waiting in the hope that tomorrow will bring something better. Jesus tells us in Matthew to not worry about tomorrow, today has enough troubles of its own. Paul when he list the fruit of the spirit patience or long suffering is on the list. Nevertheless waiting is not what we want to do. The church has been saying Christ is coming back soon for thousands of years and we are still waiting. The Jewish people waited for the messiah for a long enough time that most missed Him when he came.

I have wondered why it is hard to wait. Everything for me comes back to one word from Jesus in scripture. "Therefore" The passage on not worrying starts with this word. Jesus words right before this are: *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*

Who is the boss in your life? When I was a child and my father took care of me and my brothers. We did not have to worry about food, clothes and things like that. We just understood we had to listen to him, because he was in charge. It was easy as a child to do that. As we aged we took on our own responsibilities and cared for ourselves. My dad's role changed and it changing again now. We have done this same thing with God. It was easy at some point as a child to trust in God and then it changed. We grew up wanted our ways and could start doing things for ourselves. We drift away from God being the master. Our unwillingness to seek patience is a control issue.

Are you willing to place control back into God's hands and be patience? Jesus connected our willingness to service one master with our willingness to not worry and be patience with our one Master. We can not be like the child that when one parent (master) does not give you the candy you want that you go to the other parent (master) and ask them. True faith in Christ calls us to patiently wait on our one true master.

"The Lord our God, the Lord is one." Deuteronomy 6:4

Cast your burden on the Lord... —Psalm 55:22

We must recognize the difference between burdens that are right for us to bear and burdens that are wrong. We should never bear the burdens of sin or doubt, but there are some burdens placed on us by God which He does not intend to lift off. God wants us to roll them back on Him— to literally “cast your burden,” which He has given you, “on the Lord...” If we set out to serve God and do His work but get out of touch with Him, the sense of responsibility we feel will be overwhelming and defeating. But if we will only roll back on God the burdens He has placed on us, He will take away that immense feeling of responsibility, replacing it with an awareness and understanding of Himself and His presence.

Many servants set out to serve God with great courage and with the right motives. But with no intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ, they are soon defeated. They do not know what to do with their burden, and it produces weariness in their lives. Others will see this and say, “What a sad end to something that had such a great beginning!”

“Cast your burden on the Lord...” You have been bearing it all, but you need to deliberately place one end on God’s shoulder. “...the government will be upon His shoulder” (Isaiah 9:6). Commit to God whatever burden He has placed on you. Don’t just cast it aside, but put it over onto Him and place yourself there with it. You will see that your burden is then lightened by the sense of companionship. But you should never try to separate yourself from your burden.

Our Peace is to be found more in suffering than in joy. Therefore resolve to seek peace in persecutions and tranquility in the midst of tribulations. However, to acquire this peace of spirit it is necessary to completely master out passions, submit our flesh to our spirit, and our spirit to God. This is not the work of only one day. We will be blessed if, with God’s grace, we accomplish this after many years.

Prayer—*Only you, my Savior, can give peace to my soul, because from your cross you were the mediator of peace between your eternal Father and us. Dear Jesus, calm the storms that reign in my heart. Help me to do always your holy will in everything that I may live in true peace and perfect calm. Amen.*