

P509

Grace Notes Radio Program

SERIES: Why trials?

SET 9: Character Construction underway – Part 4

SONGS: COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

MY REDEEMER IS FAITHFUL

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. We hope you've been enjoying our series entitled 'Why trials'. Barbara Sandbek has been talking about how trials build in us the character traits listed in 1 Peter 1:5-7. We found that faith, coupled with virtue, knowledge, and self-control, create in us a deeper love for God and others. Today, Barbara will explain the attribute of patience, in a little different light, and share another one of her experiences.

I like these sayings I found about patience...

Patience is the quality you admire in the driver behind you and scorn in the one ahead of you.

Patience is the ability to keep your motor idling when you feel like stripping your gears.

Patience is the trait we try not to pray for because it comes through experiencing trials. James 1:3-4 says that the trying of your faith works patience and that once it's worked into us we're complete.

Romans 5: 3-4 also says...

We glory (or rejoice) in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation works patience and patience, experience (or character) and character, hope.

I can't say I always rejoice, but God is teaching me.

I was in a line the other day waiting for my 'fast' food and a lady came up behind me. I told her that she may not want to be there because I always get in the wrong line. She thanked me for being so considerate and moved to a much faster line. Wrong lines continue to teach me patience. I wonder when I'll graduate.

I think there's more to patience, though, than being able to quietly wait in line, or deal with annoying people. Just because we can keep quiet, doesn't mean we're at peace with the situation. We can complain in our spirit without complaining audibly – and it will still show.

The word 'Patience' is rendered 'Cheerful endurance'. It's also translated perseverance, or being persistent in the execution of a purpose.

As Believers, our responsibility is to make every effort to allow these traits to become a part of our personality. That's the purpose we're to persevere for. When we believe it's for our ultimate good, it should be easier to cheerfully endure.

The word 'patient' is also described as 'uncomplaining'.

Philippians 2:14-16a says...

Do everything without complaining or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the Word of life.

If all you ever do is complain, don't bother trying to shine your light for God, no one will see it for your attitude.

Philippians 4:4 says...

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.

We're to rejoice, or display joy, IN THE LORD, not necessarily in the situation, and we're to rejoice, not just when things are good, but always. God must have thought it was important to have repeated it.

Why is adherence to this command so vital? Because the Joy of the Lord is our strength – and our greatest testimony.

We complain because we have to put up with things we think we shouldn't have to, or because we don't have things we think we should have. It all boils down to discontentment.

Most of us have given ourselves a 'pity party' at some time or other and

have invited many guests to attend. I know I have. It can become a habit before you know it.

There was a time when I got caught up in my little party, but God showed me the error of my way. I'll tell you first about the trial God put me through, and then I'll share a poem I wrote.

God gives us talents as He sees fit. It's up to us to work them, but also to also be satisfied with what He has chosen to give us – our portion. There was a time when I started complaining that I didn't think my voice was good enough for God to use, even though I'd been singing for years. There were so many young singers who could do it much better than I ever could.

About that time, I contracted a cold which settled in my ears. I did the 'no no' thing to relieve pressure and poked a cutip in my ear. I immediately lost my hearing. I thought it was temporary, but it went on for days. I began to consider the devastating effect this would have on my singing.

One night, as was the custom, our family gathered for devotions and prayer. The devotional was on being thankful (how timely). When it was my turn to pray, I began by saying, 'Lord, help US to be more grateful'. Then I stopped and started over with...

"No, Father, help ME to be more grateful. Use me however you want and help me to trust in your strength, not my own."

God did eventually give me back my hearing along with a grateful heart. Here's the poem I wrote for myself. I always say...

"If the shoe fits...wear it."

POOR ME

By Barbara Sandbek

**Your neighbor's got a brand new boat...
a cadillac and a real mink coat.
They're booked themselves on their annual cruise
and expect your delight when they share the news.**

**Their kids wear clothes with the label "Guess"
and your kids, in comparison, are quite a mess.
Even their animals seem to obey
while yours are constantly running away.**

**Your office partner just got a raise.
You do all the work and he gets the praise.
They've laid the red carpet to light his way
while you're wondering if they'll let you stay.**

**"Poor me", you say, "I've got it bad!"
"Poor me", you say, "I'm really sad."**

**Why you're poor alright, for you aren't seein'
The treasures God has surely given.
Start looking at what's within your store.
Be content with your gifts...stop wanting more.**

**Don't know what you've got till you've got it not
So start counting your blessings today.
Enjoy all the things your Father brings
Before they are taken away.**

***** COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS *****

Hebrews 13:5 says...

**Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with
such things as ye have, for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor
forsake thee.**

**What more could we want than the presence of our faithful Redeemer
in our lives and His precious promises to hold on to.**

***** MY REDEEMER IS FAITHFUL *****

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or email us through our web site at sandbekministries.com.

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Don't miss our next program – it's sure to be a blessing!