

The Father's House Newsbanner

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Inez Brinkley, Editor

He came to set the captives free...

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Don't Ever Give Up by Bro. Gerald Brinkley

[Psalm 69:13] But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O Lord, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.

Life within it's self brings with it many opportunities. Opportunities to do good, as well as opportunities not to do good. Opportunities for victories, as well as opportunities for failure.

The mistakes of today can become windows of opportunity for tomorrow. If we dwell on our mistakes, [blown opportunities] we can lose the value of them. Instead of using our mistakes to propel us, we allow them to drown us.

Instead of rising to heights we never dreamed of, we sink into depths we never wanted, nor intended to.

Value is how much something is worth. Just how many people believe that their mistakes have value? We must allow our mistakes to have value, and that is to reveal to us just where did we go wrong? Then of course what the devil meant for harm, God can use for good.

[Rm. 8:28] And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

What I am saying pure and simple is this, don't give up. For this could be your day.

The enemy satan and his demons want to deflate you in order to defeat you. And many times, to keep you defeated.

Just how high can a deflated balloon rise? And just how high can a balloon inflated with helium rise?

If you have no self worth, just what do you have? If the devil can take [steal] ones worthiness, what is left of that person?

In all probability that person will be able to rise about as high as that person's self worth.

And of course that isn't very high.

Just like the deflated balloon.

Keep this in mind: that the devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy.
[John 10:10] The thief cometh not,

but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

We hear this many times from defeated people. "My grandparents were like that, my parents are like that, and I guess I will always be like that." Holding on to that type of mentality, no wonder all is the same, even after generations pass. Defeat and more defeat. After all is said, here comes more defeat.

"I just can't wait for tomorrow, because I have the same as I had yesterday coming, more defeat."

Cast this mentality aside. It might have been that way yesterday, it might be this way today, but it don't have to be that way tomorrow. For my God is greater than my problems. For my God can deliver me and set my feet on solid ground.

My God is Jesus Christ, who delivers me and sets me free, to be all that I am cable of being or becoming.

Laughter... Medicine for the soul

In Florida, an atheist became incensed over the preparation of Easter and Passover holidays. He decided to contact his lawyer about the discrimination inflicted on atheists by the constant celebrations afforded to Christians and Jews with all their holidays while atheists had no holiday to celebrate.

The case was brought before a wise judge. After listening to the long passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel and declared "Case Dismissed."

The lawyer immediately stood and objected to the ruling and said, "Your Honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? Christians have Christmas, Easter and many other observances. Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah.....yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair and simply said "Obviously your client is too confused to even know about,

much less celebrate, his own atheists holiday!"

The lawyer pompously said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any such holiday for atheists. Just when might that holiday be, your Honor?"

The judge said, "Well it comes every year on exactly the same date.....April 1st! Since our calendar sets April 1st as April Fools Day, consider that Psalm 14:1, Psalm 53 states, The fool says in his heart, there is no God. Thus, in my opinion, if your client says there is no God, then by scripture he is a fool, thus April 1st is his holiday!"

The next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember...

- Noah was a drunk
- Abraham was too old
- Isaac was a daydreamer
- Jacob was a liar
- Leah was ugly

- Joseph was abused
- Moses had a stuttering problem
- Gideon was afraid
- Samson had long hair and was a womanizer
- Rahab was a prostitute
- Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
- David had an affair and was a murderer
- Elijah was suicidal
- Isaiah preached naked
- Jonah ran from God
- Naomi was a widow
- Job went bankrupt
- Peter denied Christ
- The Disciples fell asleep while praying
- Martha worried about everything
- The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once
- Zaccheus was too small
- Paul was too religious
- Timothy had an ulcer... AND
- Lazarus was dead!

You are a person of worth...

Spiritual Fruit - Patience ...The fourth in a series on Spiritual Fruit by Toni McArthur

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith develops patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing."

James 1:2-4

We've already talked about love, joy, and peace. The next attribute mentioned in Paul's

Letter to the Galatians is patience. And to be perfectly honest, I'm probably the least qualified member of our congregation to write about patience. The Lord has dealt with me on this issue many, many times, and just when I think I've finally "gotten it"....alas, I lose my cool and find myself murmuring, grumbling, or complaining about some insignificant thing or another.

I've prayed long and often for patience. If I've learned one thing about prayer, it's that we'd better be careful about what we pray for. Pray for patience and you can expect to be tested with long lines at the grocery store, slow traffic, and long waits at the doctor's office....sort of the sandpaper God uses sometimes to get us into spiritual shape.

When I first prayed for patience as a baby Christian, the Lord answered me by sending people and circumstances my way that would try Job's patience. Of course, at that particular stage of my Christian walk, I thought God wasn't answering my request. I would ask Him every day, "Lord, I lost my temper again today. It seems more and more things are testing my patience. Why won't You help me with this?" This testing and prayer went on for months. Finally one day, either the Lord opened my spiritual eyes or I finally opened my heart to His attempt to teach me, because I saw clearly what He was trying to tell me. It happened on a trip to Wal-Mart.

MY PERSONAL EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE: After I'd finished grocery shopping at Wal-Mart late one evening, I headed to the checkout lines. There were only three open. Two of them were express lines and we had a cart full of groceries. The other regular line had a buggy parked by the checkout counter, but no one was there unloading the groceries onto the counter. I stood behind it for a minute or two until the girl working at the checkout lane motioned me to come around the buggy. I pushed in front of the abandoned grocery cart and began taking items out of mine. About halfway through the process, an irate woman grabbed the handle of her cart behind me and jerked it back a couple of feet, slamming the wheels on the floor, all the while muttering audible

insults to me under her breath about me being rude and her wanting to ram her buggy right into my fat...uh...behind. She continued on with her angry outburst until the clerk finally told her that she'd left her shopping cart there and other customers were waiting. She then began to lambaste the clerk and said some nasty things to her as well. The clerk and I just quietly continued the check-out process. She was still seething as I finished putting the bags in my cart. As I waited for the receipt, another woman came into the store and walked toward the irate customer and called out her name. They exchanged big grins and hugged each other. Then both began talking about the service at church the previous Sunday. That irate customer was a Christian!

WHAT IS PATIENCE? Patience is not a virtue that falls on us from Heaven once we're saved. Just because we're Christians and call ourselves saved or born again, patience (like all of the other attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit) doesn't automatically come with our salvation. God will help us with it, but patience is a conscious decision that we must make every day of our lives...a decision to enjoy the breezes of life that blow past us. I call it "enjoying the process." Every time I consciously practice patience, I feel I am in keeping with God's will and I'm pleasing to Him. It's something that He not only wants from me but also expects of me because He knows my spiritual eyes are now open.

IMPATIENCE HAS LOTS OF SIBLINGS: Impatience doesn't dwell by itself in us. It's handcuffed to its brothers and sisters....intolerance, petulance, controlling behavior, and a generally bad attitude....that affects everyone around us, especially those we love and care for. Everyone probably has a "drama queen" or "drama king" among family members, friends, or in the workplace. Their attitudes drain us and the best we can do is to get away from the situation for a while. Did someone say a hot soak in the tub with a shoulder rub afterwards?

WHAT IMPATIENCE SAYS ABOUT US: If we act angry, irritable, agitated, and aggravated, how can we possibly witness to others? That angry woman at the store was a Christian but she certainly was not a good witness. When we're behind the wheel of a car, in a line at the grocery store, or waiting for a meal at a restaurant, if we complain about the wait, it tells people a lot about us. It says, "I'm very important, more im-

portant than the other people here, so pay attention to ME!"

STRENGTHENING OUR "PATIENCE MUSCLES": Patience takes spiritual muscle. Like the muscles in our bodies, patience has to be built up and strengthened. And we have to keep on strengthening that spiritual muscle or it will become weak again. We can pray for those who try our patience and thank God for allowing them into our lives so we can do His will. We can also keep our "patience muscles" in shape by befriending people who are patient. It's an excellent opportunity to learn. Our own Pastor Brinkley is an outstanding example of patience, and I've learned much from him since we joined the congregation at the Father's House. I'm sure he feels impatient and irritated at times, but his actions and words belie any feelings of frustration or intolerance. It's important to surround ourselves with people of character such as his who can teach us by their treatment of others.

CHANGE THE LENS: If you find yourself starting to lose your cool, try to look at annoying people through different eyes. In essence, you can "change the lens" that you look through when having to deal with them. Try to imagine the slow old lady in the car in front of you as someone's wonderful little grandma. Her grandchildren probably love going to see her, crawling up on her lap and giving her big kisses and hugs. Imagine her beaming with joy when they bestow their love on her. This is one of the favorite tools I like to use for impatience.

A PRAYER FOR PATIENCE: Lord, how patient You were when you suffered and died for me! My minor irritations at unexpected delays or irritating people are nothing compared to Your sacrifice. I ask that I become more humble and less self-centered in my dealings with others. Let my patience be a witness to You and Your love for everyone, and let me remember each day that in Your eyes, every person is just as important as I am. My desire is to do Your will, Lord, and I lay my frustrations and intolerances at the foot of the cross where you died to save me. Give me wisdom. Give me strength. Give me the mind of Christ. Thank You for Your love. Thank You for my salvation. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.

WARNING: Jesus is still coming back. He is gearing up and preparing to depart Heaven real soon. Is your life in order? Are you prepared to see Him in the air? Are your garments spotless?