

# The Godly Man's Portion & Sanctuary

## Lesson 14: Exhortations for the Godly, Part 5

- I. *Patience is* a submitting, sedate, and calm frame of spirit, whereby a Christian, upon gospel truths and promises, is borne up under all his troubles and borne through all his duties because it recognizes, believes, and embraces all the supports found in the gospel.
  - A. Patience is *the whole of Christianity*.
  - B. Patience is *the height of Christianity*.
- II. As further encouragement and help to this duty, consider that your patience in suffering will be:
  - A. Your witness to the gospel in the eyes of the world, Rom 8.18; 2Cor 4.16-18.
  - B. God's witness to your adoption, Heb 12.7.
  - C. The cure for your sins, Heb 12.10-11, 12-14.
  - D. Your triumph over temptation, Phil 4.11-13.
    1. A patient Christian is a conqueror over all the world, Phil 4.11-13. It was by patience that Job overcame the devil, Job 1.20-22, and by patience that Christ overcame death, Heb 2.9-10.
    2. When Satan has used all his might to persecute you into the refuge of patience, he has unwittingly brought his neck under your feet, Rom 8.35-39; 5.3-5; 1Jn 5.4-5; Js 1.2-4.
    3. Be patient under trial and you've gained the advantage, you've won the day, because the enemy has no hope of driving you to sin where he sees you're able and willing to suffer, Phil 4.13.
  - E. The improvement of your sanctification, Heb 12.9-11.
    1. God's school of affliction is a nursery for heaven.
    2. Were it not for His House of Correction, Zion would quickly become like Sodom, Isa 1.4-31.
    3. Of all the saints, none is raised so high toward heaven as those who have been in the depths of affliction, Rom 8.28-29; 2Cor 12.9-10.
    4. No providences give such a lift to the soul as those that most humble it, Ps 119.67, 71.
    5. Whatever pains you suffer, you can be sure that if you humble yourself under it and look to God through it the fruit of it will make you forget all your sorrows, Ps 50.15; Heb 12.11. And if the *joy* of the birth should make you forget the pain of the suffering, then why may not the *hope* of the birth make you bear the pain of it, Jn 16.21?
    6. Ask yourself: would you be more holy than you are, more fruitful than you are, and more Christlike than you are, or would you not?
      - a) To have no desire to be better argues a lack of genuine conversion, Ps 42.1; Mt 5.6.
      - b) And if you do desire to be better, is that desire conditional or absolute? Would you be holy at any cost? Are you so desirous of a more holy and fruitful life that you're willing that God should do *whatever* is necessary?
      - c) Can you pray like this: "O Lord, I'm weary of this trifling of mine. I'm weary of this dead and barren life of mine. Lord quicken me. Lord mature me. Lord perfect your work in me and fulfill all the good pleasure of your will in me. And in order that you would hear me in this, I freely put it into your hands to take your own way with me and use your own means on me. Use the Word or the rod. Command me or chastise me. Don't spare my flesh.... I am willing for *anything* Lord, *anything* Lord. I can be content to be poor if you will have me to be. I can be in pain and in disgrace if you will have me to be; but O Lord, *I cannot be unholy*." Can you pray like that and then murmur that the Lord hears and answers your prayer?

- d) If that's been your heart's desire before the Lord: that He make you more holy and fruitful, then when the Lord comes to deal roughly with you, be patient under His chastisements and say to your heart: "Now the Lord is about to give me my heart's desire. This is the day I hoped for. This distress, this sorrow, this affliction, this anguish which the Lord's brought upon me has come to perform that work in me which I've longed to see, that work which the preaching of the Word has not yet worked, which the sacraments have not yet worked, which all my prayers have not yet worked. Now is the time for it. This bitter cup put into my hands comes with health in the bottom.... This is the work I've been begging God for.... And therefore I will bless God for this providence, I will submit to this whip, and I will rejoice in hope of the glory of God that shall soon be seen in me like never before."
- F. The advance of your glory, Heb 12.11; 2Cor 4.16-18; Rom 8.18-19, 23-25.
1. All your sufferings will give way to an incomparable glory and reward, not as meritorious, but as an appointed means to the end, Rom 8.28-29; Acts 14.22; cf. Rev 18.7.
  2. You cannot avoid sufferings in this life, Mt 18.7; Acts 14.22, but you can abide them. Your carnal heart will cry out that you cannot endure and will tempt you to do whatever you can to avoid them; but the gospel says you can endure them, 2Cor 12.9, and as Christians you must, Jn 16.33; 2Tim 3.12.
  3. Therefore gird up your loins of your minds and follow your Lord in the way of suffering. He was made perfect through suffering, Heb 2.10 and so shall you be, Heb 12.10.
    - a) Turn to your stronghold and prove to the world that your faith is real and that He who is the object of it is a sure Refuge for the soul.
    - b) When the Lord fulfills His Word to afflict you, let your faith and patience wait upon Him to fulfill His promise to uphold and perfect you, Isa 43.1-3.
    - c) When your flesh flies in your face like Job's wife and says to you, "Curse God and die," say as he did, "you speak like a fool."
    - d) When your flesh kicks and groans under the rod, let it groan alone. Possess your soul in hopeful patience and let the flesh die in disgrace.
    - e) If you fear you don't have the grace of patience to suffer the torment of your sins, remember that patience is a grace that's given, not before, but only in the trial itself, Js 1.2-4; 2Cor 12.9-10.
  4. So trust God, bear the cross, and don't be afraid of any dark providence. You have His promise that it comes to do you good, Rom 8.28, and that in the midst of it, you'll find all the grace you need to be made good by it, 2Cor 12.9-10; Rom 5.3-4; Heb 12.11.
  5. And when all else fails, and you feel utterly helpless and hopeless in the face of your trial, let your soul take sanctuary in Ps 73.26 and Heb 13.5-6.