Devotion #288

**Be Patient and Wait**

**Psalm 37:7 (NASB)** *“Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him.”*

I hope you won’t judge me too much for this, but do you remember the old 1972 television series, “Kung Fu”? David Carradine stared in it as a martial arts expert. It was a great show for young boys and girls who wanted to be great at martial arts like the “Bruce Lees” of the world. I remember in the opening of the show each week there was one brief scene were Kwai Chang Caine, played by Carradine, was anxious to be great in martial arts but was told by his Kung Fu master to “be patient young grasshopper”. Many jokes between my brother and my cousin and me came from that scene. To this day that phrase resonates inside my mind as I see my brother, my cousin and me trying to perform the various moves.

But as much fun as we had at the expense of that phrase, there is a lot of truth in it. Not that we should think of ourselves as young grasshoppers, but that we should consider the importance of patience - specifically patience while waiting on the Lord. Too often, we are beyond being impatient with many things in life, whether it is events that don’t go our way or some business deal or even a relationship. I’m sure this is why it is said that patience is a virtue, because it certainly doesn’t come easy.

Even so, it is what the Lord wants from us. He wants us to not be anxious for anything, but to always trust Him for His perfect timing or perfect answer to our various situations in life. (Philippians 4:6) That is also why we have this verse in the Bible. We are told to do the opposite of what we would normally do, which is to be impatient and run ahead of God. That is especially true in the western mindset. We struggle to wait on anything. One of our sons works for a local fast-food business, and he has said that many days would be wonderful if it weren’t for the people who come for their food. That’s a good laugh, but the truth is that people are so impatient they even blow up at the very people who are trying to help them get what they want – in this case lunch.

Sadly those outbursts over simple things like a line not moving fast enough or the order not being exactly right are the results of a much deeper issue - lack of patience, which comes from a lack of obedience to the Lord. I understand that many of the people who come to the fast-food restaurant are not believers. However, I’m sure that some are, yet they still struggle with impatience. It is a core issue that results from a sinful heart. Some may think the issue is fast food, but the truth is, God is ten thousand times more concerned with our hearts being like Him than He is about our hangry-low-blood-sugar attitude being satisfied.

The Lord teaches us to be patient and wait on Him. He wants us to always remember that our lives are in His hands. Therefore, He is free to move at the pace He chooses. He is not bound to respond to our desires at the moment we make a request because He is always doing something much bigger. No, He wants us to rely on Him and trust Him for all things in His time.

This applies to every area of life. There are times God knows our hearts need work before He is ready to just put things back together. Often that work is slowed, not by God, but by us. We often are the ones who cause the situation to be delayed because we are not getting the message. So, the Lord delays - sometimes because there is something we need to learn. Sometimes it is what He is doing in another person. Sometimes it may not have anything to do with us at all. If He wanted us to know the minute details, He would keep us informed. But that is not the case. So He says to be patient and wait.

Could I ask us all to remember that our Lord is in control of all things. All things!!!! We don’t need to be impatient about anything. What we need to do is obey. In this case, obedience is patience while He does what He desires to do in us and through us.