*Wednesday, March 14, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; (3) Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. (4) But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. (KJV)

Patience is a word not heard of much today, because we are surrounded by a fallen world whose only desire is instant gratification. Drive through fast food meals, quick easy short cut pills to get slim and healthy after all the junk food you ingested has one running in circles and getting dizzier by the moment. Church in Christ, if you are really ever going to grow up and mature then patience is a vital part of your life, or you will find yourself on the devils treadmill always on the move and never making progress forward.

Isaiah 55:7-9 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (8) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. (9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. (KJV)

Now that you jumped the gun and went running after something in the flesh it’s time to go back to the starting line again, and this time wait on the Lord before proceeding. Oh there is so much difference between what we call patience and what our Lord says is patience. Let’s look at it this way, consider our Lord the great physician and we are His patients, learning how to truly let patience have its perfect work.

Isaiah 40:29-31 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. (30) Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: (31) But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. (KJV)

Have you gotten tired of shadow boxing yet; you know where you exert lots of energy throwing punches and are nowhere near hitting the target? Or running in circles like a greyhound at the dog track chasing an imaginary rabbit? You will find it much easier by waiting on our Lord and then proceeding forward when you get His green light.

Hebrews 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, (2) Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (KJV)

Sin is a result of unbelief, where we believe more in what we see with our outward senses rather than relying on our new inward ones which will get the results that we are looking for. You wouldn’t get to far running an endurance race trying to carry a bowling ball or two in your backpack, so why would you do it spiritually?