*Thursday, April 12, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

James 1:2-5 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. (5) If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. (KJV)

You know it’s easier to be patient for your own things; however the trying of our faith can take place when our Lord asks us to be patient toward other members of His body of believers. Perfect refers to maturity, those that have grown up and don’t throw a fit every time something doesn’t quite go their way. The trial of your faith may result from your lack of patience toward others, and that is where you may need to pray and seek wisdom on how to handle these matters.

Galatians 5:22-26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (24) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. (25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (26) Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. (KJV)

Thayers definition for ‘longsuffering’:

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1) patience, endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance

2) patience, forbearance, longsuffering, slowness in avenging wrongs

Yeah there is no escaping it folks, not only were you seeking some patience and longsuffering when you were experiencing trials in your walk but now you need to learn how to show some of that same compassion in return in order to be used by our Lord to speak His word. You need to let this patience have its perfect work even though you may feel like being judge, jury, and executioner.

2 Peter 3:8-9 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (9) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and yes forever. The same compassion and longsuffering that you desired from the Lord is the same measure that He desires to see you show toward His people also. Maybe there is an underlying factor as to why you get a bit angry or short with others.

Luke 6:41-42 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? (42) Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye. (KJV)

Many are called by our Lord but in the end only a few are really chosen. Those few that are chosen are the ones that have learned to look into their own spiritual mirrors and see who they really are and not forget that person. Others that are passed by and rejected for ministry work are their own worst enemies, who try to be someone that they are not and then take out their own frustrations and shortcomings on others.