

Why it takes forever? Consequences of waiting

Objectives

Learn how to wait calmly and watch the work of God

References

The Virtue of Waiting – St. Georges Church (Gheit el Enab) Alexandria

Scriptural Verse

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Lesson Guidelines

- ✝ Waiting is a divine commandment (Acts 1: 4) (Marc 13: 13)
- ✝ The disciples waited 10 days after ascension without any doubt in the fulfillment of God's promise and they received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1: 14 & 2: 1- 4)
- ✝ St. Paul advised his disciple Timothy to acquire this virtue (2 Timothy 2: 10 – 12)
- ✝ St. James urged people in his letter to wait for the Lord (James 5: 7 & 8)

What is the Virtue of Waiting?

- ✝ It is to trust in the promises of the Lord, to believe, wait and hope for its fulfillment either in this life on earth or later in heavens with full acceptance for God's plan.
- ✝ It is sharing in one of the Virtues of God "the Longsuffering"

Blessings of Waiting

- ✝ Enjoying the fulfillment of God's promise
- ✝ Abraham begot Isaac despite of his old age and his barren wife
- ✝ Noah completed the Ark despite of everyone's mocking and became the father of all nations that God promised not to destroy again by the flood

Earning patience, wisdom and longsuffering

- ✝ Abraham dealt wisely with Lot in the matter of the shepherds' dispute. Lot chose the green land for his pasture but it was a sinful land while Abraham waited for the choice of God who gave him a land full of milk and honey inside out.
- ✝ This virtue of waiting protects us from falling into sin and helps us to trust in God's mercies through wisdom in thought and acts

Braking the snares of Satan

The snares of Satan and his tricks are broken in front of the believers who struggle to keep their virtues and hold tight in God the Lord and Savior waiting for His mercies and believing in His promises and trusting in Him Who will never let them down (The story of the monk who kept falling and getting up and when Satan tried to make him feel ashamed and gave up his

prayers then he said: I will keep getting up after each fall and it is up to God to take me either in falling or rising state)

Getting above tribulations and caring for fruits and consequences

The person who struggle and wait for God's work in his life should know that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18). Waiting for this glory, he sows with pain and reaps with Joy. If a person sow and did not wait, he will reap nothing. So we have to endure pain "If we endure we shall also reign with Him" (2 Timothy 2: 12)

Enjoying a life of continuous Joy

Those who struggle waiting for the Lord, will rejoice more as their struggle expands the joy to others as David the prophets whose struggle brought the joy to all who followed his footsteps and consider his struggle as an example in repentance (Psalm 119: 74)

Being Grant a short period of tribulations

God in His great mercy will never deceive those who struggle and wait for Him but he who endures to the end shall be saved (Mark 13: 13) Sometimes the tribulations are so harsh and our beloved savior shortens the time of tribulations so that His beloved can endure it "And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days." (Mark 13: 20)

Treating rash and haste

Patience, good thinking and wisdom are the best landmarks of the virtue of waiting. Those who haste to self plan to pave the way in front of God to fulfill His promises are declaring their lack of faith. Learn from Joseph who waited and waited fulfilling with full honesty the Lord's commandments and compare with the marriage of Abraham and Hagar and its consequences. "Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God" (Ecclesiastes 5: 2)

Enable man to see the Lord Jesus Christ

Christians are waiting to see the Lord in His glory trying their best to fulfill His commandments and to live in Purity till the day when they live in a new heaven where there is nothing but righteousness. Besides, He appears to the righteous on earth to comfort them in their tribulations like His appearances to the martyrs.

How to obtain the Virtue of Waiting?

- ✝ Struggle and self discipline, which are considered the anchor of the virtue of waiting, to avoid falling in boredom, despair fear and doubt
- ✝ Faith in the words and promises of God which enables a person to support the long period of waiting that is full of satanic fights
- ✝ Trust and submit to the will of God knowing that everything together work for good for those who love Him and wait for Him
- ✝ Seek help from the Holy Bible and the grace of the Lord to remember the promises of God and how does He fulfill it in the appointed time as He did with the previous fathers.

- ✝ Get very close to the “Divine Sacraments” that give strength and help the seeker to obtain the virtue that he is longing and waiting for

Discussion Points

Abraham thought that the Lord’s promise cannot be fulfilled unless he took another wife. The plan seemed to be successful and he got Ismail from Hagar. Discuss the many troubles he had and the fulfillment of God’s promise in its due time. Refer to (Galatians 4: 21- 31)

Conclusion

We the believers should have faith that even if it takes too long and the temptations become very harsh, God will never let us down. St Paul said: “According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death” (Philippians 1: 20)

Activities / Workshop

Find out about people who took them so long to enjoy the fulfilling of God’s promise and the great rewards they received (ex. Zachariah and Elizabeth).