

HOLD ON 02: THE FRUIT OF BEING PATIENT STUDY GUIDE

Last week we looked at Leah and how she had to be patient. She had to stop scheming and start praising and be consistent in the storm. She needed to be the same yesterday, today and forever. That is the power of patience, and Leah developed it. Andrew Wommack defines patience as “faith that lasts, faith over time”, and that is what we need. Not a moment of dreaming, a moment of faith, faith is believing – but patience is to keep on believing over time.

Read Hebrews 6.12. We need that force of patience; we need to be consistent. Firstly, we need to be patient to inherit the promises, but secondly, we need to be fruitful.

Read Luke 8.11-15. Notice verse 15 – the good ground brings forth fruit with patience. Being good ground and being fruitful depends on how patient you are.

Or in other words, patience is how you bring forth fruit. We are the oaks of righteousness, which means that you are not going to bear fruit in a minute, an hour, a day, or a week. Not even in a year. You need patience. You need to put the Word in your heart, not ever take it out and hold onto it forever.

Read Psalm 37.9. When we wait on the Lord, we inherit the earth. That is prosperity. Do you want to be a millionaire? It will not happen overnight, it will not happen immediately, it will happen step by step. Do you want to inherit the earth? Do you want to change the world? Do you want to change your nation, your community, your family? It will take time.

If you are not bearing as much fruit as you want – maybe you are being impatient. Maybe you are inconsistent in the storm, maybe you are not following the path that God has ordained for you and maybe you are looking for a short cut that is not from God! Impatient people are not fruitful.

There are several reasons why this is so.

I. They cannot stand long enough in second place

Many people never serve long enough to learn what they need to know to take first place in a situation. They think if they do not run off now the world will die without them. They are not humble enough to see life as a relay race and take the baton at the God-appointed time.

Remember Luke from Star Wars. He feels on he can change the galaxy, training as a Jedi is boring, he does not really respect Yoda, so he does not finish his training. He thinks only he can save his friends – and the only time is now. He fights Darth Vader before he is ready – and it costs him his hand. I see so many people running into ministry before they are ready and they lose battles that if they had been more patient, they should have been able to win. They subsequently fall apart when they should have been standing.

One of the things that still gets me emotional is a man I knew whose marriage was in a mess, I told him not to go to Bible College, I told him to stay in Tree of Life until his marriage was better. Now if you are called to Bible College, you do not need to be perfect, I wasn't when I went. You learn there and you learn after, you never stop learning, but there are certain things I think should be in place before you go – and this guy did not have it, and he went. I wrote to this Bible College and said “please don't take him, he is

not ready” – but they did not listen, and he ran off to College, he never finished his first year, he and his wife divorced. He lost far more than his hand.

We must complete our basic training, and it takes time. Impatient people are too impatient to learn from others, especially when those others are not perfect (which is always) and that leads to tragedy.

2. Impatient People Compare Themselves to Others and Cannot Stand Their Success

Impatient people cannot handle others being promoted, so they cannot rejoice in the successes of others. I am so wary of anyone who cannot rejoice in the promotion of another. You know when England wins a football game, you have these people cheering and chanting and dancing “We won, we won, we won”. I wonder who the “we” is! They did not play but they still celebrate the win.

I want all of you to see Tree of Life Church as your team. Every time someone gets a new car, a new promotion, a new ministry, a new job, a wife, a new baby – I want you to dance and shout and say, “we won”. You might still be where you are – but the team is winning, so you celebrate. It will be your turn one day. That is patience.

Read Romans 12:15. That is one of the most important ways of loving others and winning as a team – showing joy in the success of others. Every time you do that – it is a seed – a seed you must never dig up. That seed will produce a harvest that will propel you to where you are going.

3. Impatient People Avoid Challenges – Especially Challenging People

Read Luke 21:16–19. Life is not always easy; people are not always kind! When people come at you, you have two choices. Firstly, you can be impatient, explode, and throw anger all over the place. Or you can be patient. You can stand or having done all stand; you can turn the dial of joy up to eleven and be consistent in that joy. You can do what James says and count it all joy. When you go through troubles, impatient people fall apart, patient people rejoice.

I remember we took all the children to Alton Towers once, and one of our children was just in a mood. Grumpy, and moody. We had bought them bracelets that let them get any food from any stand all day, we had passes to the whole place – I was fighting a sickness, in fact that’s the last time I remember being sick – I had been in one conference just about to attend another.

In the end I grabbed my boy and I said “I have paid too much money for today for you to be so grumpy and unappreciative. I have brought you here to enjoy yourself and you better enjoy yourself”. I must have had an edge in my voice because it worked. They perked up and started enjoying themselves. It really is up to you how joyful you are at any time. You can start jumping for joy right now.

I think the Father is after our attention right now – and telling us “I brought you here to have fun, I brought you to this planet to enjoy yourself, I paid too much – I paid in blood for you to enjoy your life, and that’s too much for you to be moping about and whinging about tough times. Yes, your life has challenges, but why not enjoy the challenge, start to face your challenges down, and start singing while you are going through them.”

The early church sang songs as they were thrown to lions, the early church was singing as they were being burned at the stake, the early church rejoiced in jail. They realized their Father put them on planet earth to have fun, and they did. You need the same revelation.

4. Impatient People Dig Up their Seed.

The Word of God is a seed, and we must not dig it up. We get frustrated at the results because the seeds take too long to grow, and so we dig it up. We start to undo our prayers, we start to speak against our dreams, we start to curse our own future. If you do a study of every parable about seed, you will learn so much about the power of patience. Of the power of sowing then waiting for a harvest.

Imagine a farmer who kept digging up his crops. Imagine a farmer who would not sow until the neighbourhood farmers; have a harvest. It would not matter how sincere he was or why he did not sow his seed, he would not have a harvest. No crop has an overnight harvest. You cannot break the laws and it is seedtime and harvest, or maybe more accurately "seed", "time" and "harvest".

Read Mark 4.26-29. Notice there are three levels of harvest here, three steps in time to get to your goal. You cannot get the full fruit instantly; you need the blade first. But to get that you need to stand and wait and be patient!

We sow the seed of the Word of God into the ground of our hearts, and our hearts will produce a harvest, But if we go into our hearts and dig the seed up and say things counter to the Word of God, things will go wrong.

Read John 15.7. If you plant a seed and dig it up daily, you will kill the seed and have zero harvest. You need patience, you need to wait for the seed to grow, little by little and step by step.

Some people put God's Word in their hearts for a day or two, but if they don't see fruit almost immediately, they dig up the seed through their words and actions and wonder why it didn't work. You have to leave it in the ground over time and go through the stages of growth. I know people who hate the blade because of impatience and miss out on the complete ear of corn.

I know people who are expecting money to fall out of the sky. They are expecting to go from nothing to everything. They are expecting to build Andrew Wommack's Woodland Park campus in their first year of ministry when it took Andrew five decades to get to that point. They do not own their own house, their own car, their own teapot, but they want to change the world instantly. They need to hire a hall and hold a meeting! They do not have a single partner, a single person who knows their name and who would come to their meetings. You cannot make all those jumps at once, it needs to grow over time.

I know someone who is expecting to preach at Grace and Faith, they think Andrew Wommack is just going to call them and ask them to speak. They don't preach regularly; they don't even go to church. They have great faith; they have no patience. They have no idea of process! Impatient people have no idea of process!

I know someone who left the church, because they were believing to buy a hotel, but they had never believed for anything before. It will never happen that way. God's kingdom works in process, and not realizing that is one of the main reasons people do not see

God's kingdom and God's best in their lives. They think "Well God loves me, so He will answer all my prayers right now". No, you need to sow a seed and wait for harvest!

YOU HAVE TO MOVE THINGS IN THE PROCESS OF GOD – STEP BY STEP.

"He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions" (Ps. 107:20).

Yes, a person can get healed without planting God's Word in their heart. It comes through the prayers of others with the gifts of healing (I Cor. 12:9), but it is not God's best. We should never be too proud to ask for help, but the proper way to get healed is to take God's promises of healing and plant them in our hearts until they release their life-giving power into our physical bodies.

This law of seedtime and harvest operates in every area of our lives. If we will plant God's Word in our hearts, then allow the seed to germinate and the plant to grow to maturity, we will reap the fruit of a harvest. That is God's best! SEED = FAITH, TIME = PATIENCE, SEED TIME is what produces a harvest.

I cannot tell you strongly enough how important it is that you know God's Word and that you plant the seed of His Word in your heart long before you need the fruit of the harvest. It could mean the difference between prosperity and poverty, or even life and death. BUT IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT YOU KEEP THE SEED IN THE GROUND OVER TIME, which is having PATIENCE. Don't dig up your seed!

5. Impatient People Yank the Line.

This might be my first fishing metaphor, but when you catch a fish and it bites the line, you cannot see the fish, but you can feel it. You have to be very slow when you reel it in – if you rush to do it, you will lose the fish. If you rush to get the fish in the boat, you lose the fish. Be patient with people, with situations and your promises from God. The bigger the fish, the slower you need to reel it in.

YOUR DREAM IS INVISIBLE, hidden by not water but by the future. You can see the past and present, but you cannot see the future. So, you use your faith and HOOK the DREAM IN – now patience is bringing it slowly and gently forward to you. THE BIGGER THE DREAM GOD HAS GIVEN YOU – the harder it will be, that thing will actually fight you – BUT IF YOU ADD PATIENCE TO YOUR FAITH, SLOWLY REEL IT IN AND IT WILL HAPPEN. This is the same as Mark 4 – the blade first, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear. Everything God does that is worthwhile is in stages. Read Psalm 37:23. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. Notice, it clearly says "steps". Lots of steps. Step by step by step. Stop looking for ungodly short cuts to success, to prosperity, to victory. They will never work.

I am so fed up with get-rich quick schemes and pyramid schemes. Do not get involved in these – take step after step after step. There is no ungodly way towards a godly goal. Do not take short cuts, be like Leah, lift your hands in the air, and start praising. Dream don't scheme! Read James 1:4.

The early church leaders called patience "the queen of all virtues". The Greek word for patience literally translates as "stay under" – it is a strong word. We all need to develop the skill of staying under. Having an attitude that says "I am in the right place, I know I should be here, so no matter what comes at me, the assaults, the pressure, people lying

about me, people hassling me, whatever trouble comes my way - I will not move. This is my place, and I will not be moving!"

One of the most patient people I know is called Patience. She is the pastor of Tree of Life Church in Watford. We had over forty people in that church in 2014, it grew faster than Guildford at the time, and we saw some remarkable miracles in that church.

Then someone got offended, started teaching universalism, wanted to rip the church in pieces, and just started lying - I guess if you think that everyone is saved, why bother with the truth at all! I turned up one Saturday night expecting maybe thirty to forty people, and there was one family, Patience, and her family. Joel, my son, who came with to lead worship, said to me what do we do, I said act like there is a hundred people - and we did.

At the end of the service, Patience asked me "Is this and this and this true" - this was the first I realized lies were being spread - I was far more naïve back then, Christians lying about pastors!? I just did not see it as possible. You see this couple wanted to be in ministry - they wanted the fruit of ministry but had no patience. So, they lied. That is an ungodly short cut to getting results.

Anyway, Patience asked me "I said that's all made up" I did not ask where from, I knew. She then said "I don't care if it's true or not, God told me to come to Tree of Life Church and no man will make me leave" - now she is a pastor! SHE MADE THE DECISION - I WILL NOT RELENT, I WILL NOT MOVE, I WILL NOT BE MOVED, I WILL HOLD FAST. That is the power of patience (that is a pun, I know it).

I DON'T KNOW WHAT STORMS YOU ARE FACING, but YOU NEED TO MAKE THE SAME DECISION - IF I AM IN THE RIGHT PLACE - I will NOT MOVE. THIS IS THE POWER TO LAST - YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON THAT POWER! YOU NEED TO DEVELOP PATIENCE.

LISTEN - IF YOU ARE IN PATIENCE - YOU WILL WIN. IT'S NOT AN IF ANYMORE - YOU WILL WIN. KEEP STANDING. You see you have to know something about satan - he has no patience. PATIENCE IS A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT. Satan has no fruit of the spirit - he lost it all when he fell. HE IS NOT PATIENT. YOU KEEP STANDING, ONE DAY YOU WAKE UP AND HE IS TOO WEARY TO FIGHT, You ARE SINGING AND PRAISING AND RAISING YOUR HANDS and YOU ARE WINNING AND HE GOES - I can't keep going, and quits, and runs off. AND YOU ARE GOING TO SEE YOUR DREAM COME TOGETHER - DO NOT GIVE UP!

LET PATIENCE HAVE ITS WORK IN YOU TODAY - YOUR PRESSURES WILL QUIT BEFORE YOU - THERE IS COMING A DAY YOU WILL BE VERY GLAD YOU DID NOT QUIT. YOU WILL HAVE A DAY YOU ARE SO GLAD YOU DID NOT QUIT. You will be so glad you STAYED UNDER AND STOOD!

THE DAY IS COMING YOU WILL BE SO HAPPY YOU DID NOT QUIT.

One of the biggest boxing matches of the twentieth century took place on November 25, 1980, at the Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was a rematch between Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran. Duran had won the previous fight and was the favorite the second time around. He had a record of 72 wins and just one loss and he had won his last forty-one fights. That is some winning streak.

The rematch was a close fight. Only a point or two separated the two fighters on the judges' scorecards. But then something unthinkable happened in the eighth round that

no one expected. Roberto Duran turned to the referee and spoke two words: "No Mas." "No more." He quit. He wasn't injured. He wasn't cut. He was frustrated and he'd had enough. Here is a fighter who was one of the best to ever step into the ring. He won a total of 103 fights, but when anyone mentions his name today, the first thing that comes to mind is "no mas." People remember the day he quit.

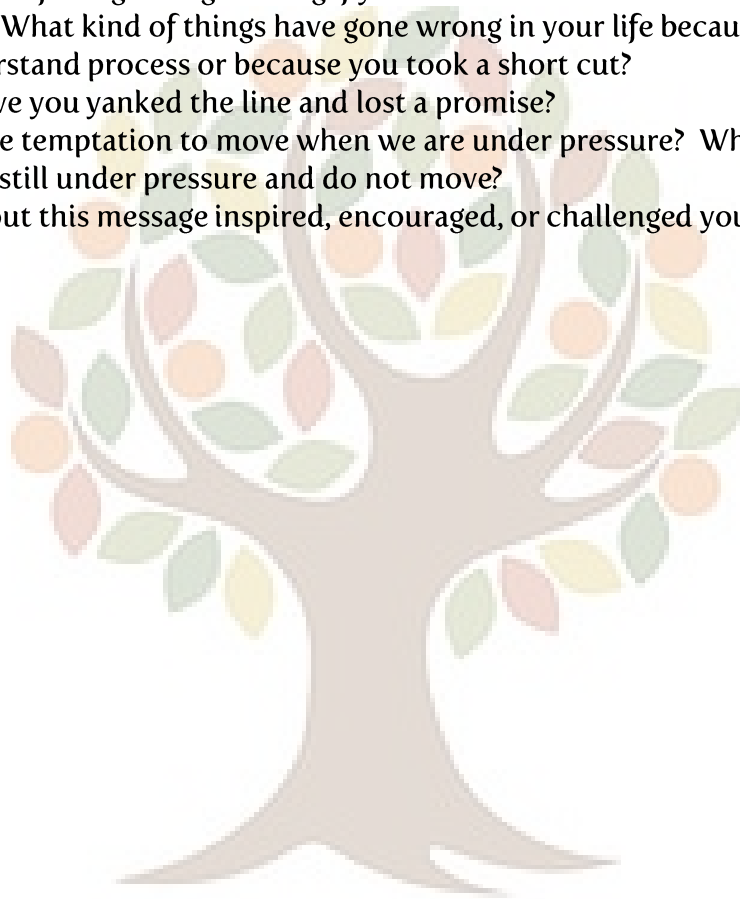
DO NOT QUIT. DO NOT QUIT ON YOUR JOB, DO NOT QUIT ON YOUR WIFE, YOUR HUSBAND, DO NOT QUIT ON YOUR CHURCH, DO NOT QUIT ON GOD – DO NOT QUIT ON LIVING! DON'T BE KNOWN FOR THE TIME YOU QUIT – BE THE ONE WHO KEEPS GOING.



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HOLD ON 02: THE FRUIT OF BEING PATIENT STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. What is a good definition of patience?
2. Why do we need to be able to stand a long time in second place?
3. Why is joy in the success of others a sign that we are being patient?
4. Why must we not live a life of avoiding patience?
5. What is digging up your seed and why is it a problem?
6. "First the blade, then the corn, then the full corn in the ear". How does this apply to the things you are believing God for right now?
7. What kind of things can go wrong if you do not understand God does things by process? What kind of things have gone wrong in your life because you either did not understand process or because you took a short cut?
8. When have you yanked the line and lost a promise?
9. Why is the temptation to move when we are under pressure? What happens when we stand still under pressure and do not move?
10. What about this message inspired, encouraged, or challenged you the most?



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