

Are you growing impatiens?

Learning to be patient with the Lord's timeline is an important gospel principle requiring faith, meekness and perspective.

When we face life's challenges with patience, we become more Christ like and will "reap the rewards" of our faith and diligence.



There are several varieties of impatiens. Those most commonly grown include:

Impatiens of Others (spouse, children, friends, family members)

Impatiens of Adversity (physical or mental disabilities, emotional challenges, illness, financial stresses)

Impatiens of Self (personal weaknesses, developing and strengthening testimonies)

Impatiens of Time (unmarried, no children)

There are a few basic tips for nurture our growing impatiens, including:

- 1) Fertilize with faith
- 2) Provide proper lighting
- 3) Pray frequently
- 4) Weed out any sins

"Now when our hearts were depressed, and we were about to turn back [or, in other words, give up], ... the Lord comforted us, and said: ... bear with patience thine afflictions, and I will give unto you success." (Alma 26:27)

Be patient in afflictions, for thou shalt have many; but endure them, for, lo, I am with thee, even unto the end of thy days. (D&C 24:8)

The Lord did strengthen them that they could bear up their burdens with ease, and they did submit cheerfully and with patience to all the will of the Lord. (Mosiah 24:15)

"Fear not, let your hearts be comforted; ... rejoice evermore, and in everything give thanks; Waiting patiently on the Lord. ... And all things wherewith you have been afflicted shall work together for your good." (D&C 98:1-3)

Tips for Nurturing Your Growing Impatiens

1. Fertilize with Faith

Add faith to your growing impatiens by trusting in the Lord, His plan and His timetable.



And now, I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith (Ether 12: 6)

Elder Dallin H. Oaks has counseled, “. . . the Lord has His own timetable. “My words are sure and shall not fail,” the Lord taught the early elders of this dispensation. “But,” He continued, “all things must come to pass in their time” (D&C 64:31–32).

The first principle of the gospel is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith means trust—trust in God’s will, trust in His way of doing things, and trust in His timetable. We should not try to impose our timetable on His. As Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has said:

“The issue for us is trusting God enough to trust also His timing. If we can truly believe He has our welfare at heart, may we not let His plans unfold as He thinks best? The same is true with the second coming and with all those matters wherein our faith needs to include faith in the Lord’s timing for us personally, not just in His overall plans and purposes.” (Even As I Am, Liahona, 1982, 93)

Indeed, we cannot have true faith in the Lord without also having complete trust in the Lord’s will and in the Lord’s timing.

Scriptural References

But if ye will nourish the word, yea, nourish the tree as it beginneth to grow, by your faith with great diligence, and with patience, looking forward to the fruit thereof, it shall take root; and behold it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life.

And because of your diligence and your faith and your patience with the word in nourishing it, that it may take root in you, behold, by and by ye shall pluck the fruit thereof, which is most precious, which is sweet above all that is sweet, and which is white above all that is white, yea, and pure above all that is pure; and ye shall feast upon this fruit even until ye are filled, that ye hunger not, neither shall ye thirst.

Then, my brethren, ye shall reap the rewards of your faith, and your diligence, and patience, and long-suffering, waiting for the tree to bring forth fruit unto you. (Alma 32: 41-43).

References

Dallin H. Oaks, “Timing,” *Liahona*, Oct. 2003, 10

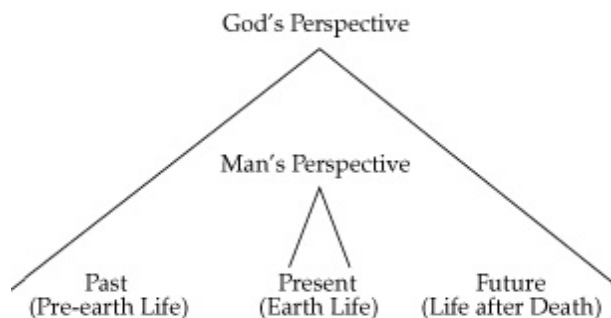
2. Provide proper lighting

An eternal perspective will light our way as we face trials



An eternal perspective can help us face our trials with a positive attitude and with faith.

Having perspective is the ability to see things in their true relationship. Knowledge of the truth will allow us to have eternal perspective. In D&C 93:24 we read, “And truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come.



Why must we pass through trials in this life?

The Lord makes no secret that He will test our faith and our obedience. “We will prove them herewith,” He said, “to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them”(Abr. 3:25.) We learn from the book of Ecclesiastes: “All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; ... as is the good, so is the sinner. ... There is one event unto all.” Tempests may occur in the life of the man who built his life upon the rock of the gospel, as well as in the life of the foolish who built his life upon the things of this world.

Therefore, we are to “run with patience the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1), and it is a marathon, not a dash.

When you and I are unduly impatient, we are suggesting that we like our timetable better than God's. And thus, while the scriptural phrase “in process of time” means “eventually,” it also denotes an entire spiritual process:

References

4825, YW 3, Increasing in Spirituality, 22: Eternal Perspective, Objective, 80
Adhemar Damiani, “Be of Good Cheer and Faithful in Adversity,” *Ensign*, May 2005, 94
Neal A. Maxwell, “Endure It Well,” *Ensign*, May 1990, 33

3. Pray frequently



“Let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those who are around you.” (Alma 34:27.)

Our Father in Heaven has invited you to express your needs, hopes, and desires unto Him. That should not be done in a spirit of negotiation, but rather as a willingness to obey His will no matter what direction that takes. His invitation, “Ask, and ye shall receive” (3 Ne. 27:29) does not assure that you will get what you *want*. It does guarantee that, if worthy, you will get what you *need*, as judged by a Father that loves you perfectly, who wants your eternal happiness even more than do you

In teaching the Nephites the power of prayer, the Savior promised them that “whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is right, believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be given unto you” (3 Ne. 18:20).

We draw closer to our Heavenly Father when we are in deep need. Our prayers of thanksgiving and joy of course should be part, and are a part, of our worship, but I guess there isn’t anybody here who won’t admit that we **pray** more fervently when we’re under the press of problems. Attitude in adversity turns hopeless to hopeful.

Sometimes we might think that the Lord does not hear or answer our prayers. At such times, we need to stop and ponder what we have done throughout our lives. If necessary, we must put our lives in harmony with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord revealed:

I, the Lord, have suffered the affliction to come upon them, wherewith they have been afflicted, in consequence of their transgressions. ...

They were slow to hearken unto the voice of the Lord their God; therefore, the Lord their God is slow to hearken unto their prayers, to answer them in the day of their trouble.

In the day of their peace they esteemed lightly my counsel; but, in the day of their trouble, of necessity they feel after me.” (D&C 101:2, 7–8.)

When we have the sincere desire to put our lives in harmony with the will of the Lord, He will always be ready to help ease our burdens.

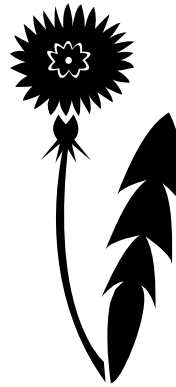
References

Elaine Cannon, “Reach for Joy,” Ensign, May 1982, 95

Ronald E. Poelman, “Adversity and the Divine Purpose of Mortality,” Ensign, May 1989, 23

4. Weed out any sins

Humble yourself and repent of any sins so you can be in tune with the Spirit during times of growing impatiens.



It's important to humble ourselves and repent of our personal sins. Humility before the Lord, a broken heart, and a contrite spirit truly seem to be the offering and sacrifice required of the Lord. The peace of the Spirit will then rest upon you and the love of God will fill your soul.

Keep the commandments of the Lord with exactness. By so doing you will avoid the suffering of the wicked and reap the blessings the Lord has promised to the obedient. If you are suffering the disheartening effects of transgression, please recognize that the only path to permanent relief from sadness is sincere repentance with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

Realize your full dependence upon the Lord and your need to align your life with His teachings. There is really no other way to get lasting healing and peace. Postponing humble repentance will delay or prevent your receiving relief. Admit to yourself your mistakes and seek help now. Your bishop is a friend with keys of authority to help you find peace of mind and contentment. The way will be opened for you to have strength to repent and be forgiven.

Scriptural Reference

And again, believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and humble yourselves before God; and ask in sincerity of heart that he would forgive you; and now, if you believe all these things see that ye do them. (Mosiah 4:10)

References

Richard G. Scott, "Trust in the Lord," *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 16

Joseph B. Wirthlin, "Patience, a Key to Happiness," *Ensign*, May 1987, 30