**Patience is a Virtue**

When I was about 21, I found myself forgetting that God’s plans are far exceedingly greater than mine and decided to take the reins of my own life. I had met a guy through some friends at church and though the Lord was adamantly prompting my heart not to, I ended up dating him. Consequently, my going against the Lord’s will drove me down a path further from God than I ever desired to be. I had learned the most difficult way that taking my own route was not at all the best route. Nevertheless, God had a grip on my heart and I was determined to make a u-turn from my path I had once thought to be better and make a beeline straight for God’s will. Ultimately, my lack of patience only ended up prolonging seeing God’s plans for my life, but His plans still prevailed.

In the Bible, we often see people take matters into their own hands because of their lack of patience and Abraham was no stranger to impatience. Galatians 4:23 speaks of Ishmael, who was a result of Abraham’s attempt to help God fulfill His plan, “But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic.” However, God did not intend for Abraham to bear a son in such a way and therefore Abraham was only met with disappointment, but God had a more pure and perfect plan to bring His promise to fruition, which would come later through Isaac. James 1:4 tells us, “But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” Abraham lacked patience and felt he was missing out on God’s promises, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Similarly, I felt I was missing out on a promise God had for me, but that was only a cry of my flesh. Abraham’s flesh cried out for immediate results, while the Lord only desired for him to wait patiently. In our lives, we may think God is delayed, but He is not. While we may be quick to take the “easier” route, we ought to be quicker to get on our knees and seek out the Lord. As we walk through different seasons of life, may we not grow so anxious that it causes us to take our own route. God is able to keep His promise for our eternal salvation, why would He not keep His word to guide us as we walk through life? Family, may our hope be ever set upon the Lord and on doing His will rather than ours. Regardless of the length we wait, may we let patience have its perfect work!

*Christina Chavez*