

Verse of the Month Devotional

June

*But let patience have her perfect work,
that ye may be perfect and entire,
wanting nothing.
James 1:4*

Thoughts on the verse:

So many of us know that old joke about warning anyone who will listen to NOT pray for patience. We may have unwittingly prayed that prayer ourselves and instead of God GIVING us patience, He deliberately put us in situations where we need to practice it more instead. (Anybody else ever feel this way?) James writes such a beautiful letter in this one simple chapter. He peacefully accepts that we WILL have challenges to overcome, and every one of us who submits to the will of God WILL also be able to come out on the other side even more purified. What if we can go through the hardest and trying times from a place of pure submission to the will of God, testifying in it all, "it is well with my soul"? What power comes from such a place of humility, and what peace comes from such a surrender, that God is in control, and there is nothing more we could ever want...? James knew patience was key.

Prayer:

God we thank You that You have a plan and a purpose in every life You created. We thank You that You can use all things for good and give us beauty from ashes. We ask You for the strength to endure our trials in life, knowing that patience will have its perfect work in us. Help us to find the joy in the journey, lead us on our path so we can run the race you have called us to as individuals and help us to remember that You are in charge whenever we get frustrated with the process. When things get hard, call to our remembrance the final result, when we achieve that perfect work. Above all things, use us for Your Kingdom and Your glory, in Jesus' name.

Action:

What areas in life do you struggle with exercising patience? Is it your kids, your job, your marriage? Maybe it's government and community issues, or church and neighborhood problems? Take a few minutes to write down the most frustrating places in your life that you know you need to work on. Think about how you could work on those things, and if there are just no feasible options for YOU to physically change, take your time praying over those things until you can say it is well with your soul. Write that down and remind yourself every time you need to.

Notes: