

## The Letter Reads Part II

Last week we looked at the first part of a two page letter God might send to us. A letter in which he laid out some things for us to do, so he can do His part in our lives.

On that first page we saw that we were to quit worrying, put our problems on His to do list and not ours, To trust Him, to leave things alone once we give them to him, and to be sure to talk to him about things.

Well shortly after that first page arrived, He sent another one and in this one he gives us some more things to do that will help us enjoy and handle life better.

So lets look at 5 more bits of advice he offers in this next letter, First, he writes

### A. Have Faith

God can say with confidence, I see a lot of things up here that you can't see from down there where you are.

So he says have faith in me, believing that I know what I'm doing. I will continue to watch over you, protect you and provide for you and all you have to do is trust me in the process.

Hebrews 10:38 says what? *And a righteous person will live by faith. But I will have no pleasure in anyone who turns away or shrinks back."*

Faith keeps the man who keeps the faith. **David Clarkson** wrote, "This living by faith is not a single and fleeting act, but something routine and permanent"

So not only does the letter tell us to have faith and have it on a regular basis but the letter goes on to write

### B. By faith, share your faith, a faith that is exhibited in action

Share faith with those who know only fear

Share laughter with those who haven't heard any for a long time.

Share joy with those who need encouragement

Share you wealth with those who have less than you.

Share yourself with those who need you.

**Thought:** We only keep what we give away.

In this letter he also writes

### C. Be patient

James 1:3,4 reminds us of what? *For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.*

**Question:** How do we endure? We do it by patient waiting. So as we patiently wait we are actually moving forward in spiritual maturity.

In the letter God writes, I managed to fix it so that in one life time you could have so many diverse experiences. You grow from a child to an adult, have children, change jobs many times, learn man trades, travel to many places, and meet thousands of people.

How can you be so impatient when it takes me a little longer to do something on my to do list. He continues, trust me for my timing is perfect. By the way, just because I created the entire universe in just six days, everyone expects me to rush, rush, rush,

So my child this letter to you lovingly says be patient. The word patient and patience is used 25 times in the NT, so it must be something that is important.

When it comes to patience don't forget the insight of Emerson who noted "A man is a hero, not because he is braver than anyone else, but because he is brave for 10 minutes longer." Patient for just a few more minutes.

**Thought:** The wonderful thing about patience is that it goes a long way, and yet the more we use it, the more we have.

Well my little children, the letter is getting a bit long but I do want to touch on just a couple more things and then I'll sign off.

The next paragraph says

### D. Be kind to and patient with one another.

Be kind to others because I love them just as much as I love you.

Please try and get along, for my sake. I created you all different in some way and I want you to enjoy those differences rather than fuss with one another because you are different.

Don't forget what I wrote you earlier in I Corinthians 13:4 where I said what? *Love is patient and kind.*

It is a fact when dealing with people that when we are patient with one another and when we are kind to one another, we will get along with one another

And also in Galatians 5:22,23 it says what? *But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law.*

J Vernon McGee says of patience that it means "long-burning"—it burns a long time. We shouldn't have a short fuse with our friends and Christian brethren. We shouldn't make snap judgments."

William Barclay notes: It is the ability not to lose patience when people are foolish, not to grow irritable when they seem unteachable. It is the ability to accept the foolishness, the desire of being cantankerous, the blindness, the ungratefulness of men and still to remain gracious, and still to toil on...

**On the other hand,** Of kindness Barnes writes that it is a nature to be pleased; it is mildness of temper, calmness of spirit, an unruffled disposition, and a disposition to treat all with courtesy and politeness.

**Remember:** Kindness is like snow - it beautifies everything it covers. So be kind to and patient with one another and things will be beautiful.

From these definitions, If we treated one another with these characteristics, society and the church would be a better place.

**Question:** How kind and patient are we with one another in our family, in society and in the church?

Finally today God writes in the letter one last paragraph that says my dear children remember to

E . Love yourself

I am simply saying, I created you to be loved. I love you and I want you to love in return.

But you don't show love to me when you don't love yourself. That hurts my feelings. It hurts me to have you not love yourself, my personal creation

It hurts me to see you get angry with yourself when you mess up. Why not love yourself enough to give yourself a break, ask for my forgiveness when you do mess up, and then keep on going.

Remember how I wrote you earlier and said in Matthew 22:39? *'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'*

**Notice** something here that I want you to remember, you can't love someone else unless you love yourself.

The reason is, without love for yourself, you will not have the emotional nor spiritual strength to love someone else.

**Don't forget**, Human beings were made to run on love and they do not function well on anything else.

Well, we have wondered what it would be like if man got a letter from God to help them on their way. He says I have sent you one and I hope you can read my writing.

Thanks for listening and thanks for thinking through these two letters to you. Just know that if you will work on all the things I laid out for you, you will make a lot of progress in your spiritual life.

Then you will be happier and I will also be happy, because **you are happy**.

I'll sign off for now, but keep up the good work, I believe in you and don't forget,

I love you a whole bunch.

Signed

Your Heavenly Father

In a closing thought let me ask you dear friend are you a child of God or do you need a word from him to help you find your way? If this is you, why not read these following lines from the heart of a God who loves you enough to give you directions on how to find him. Did you know He is looking for you?

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at [lapeerchurch@gmail.com](mailto:lapeerchurch@gmail.com) Subject line: (Salvation)