**Dumb on Patience**

Dealing with adverse issues of life (physically), I have been blessed over the last seventy-years. I have had my dents and dings, stitches, icepacks (well, not icepacks, I do not like icepacks) tiger balm, broken bones, and good ole aspirin. However, to deal with extended, i.e., months or years of physical adversity, I have not had a personal, hands-on, bear-with-it occasion to challenge me.

Without going into detail, the present adversity was described to me as “it will take months to heal.” MONTHS!?!?! Why, I have things to do! Many people deal with adversity that, in some cases, will never heal. They will go through various medical tests, operations, and some, experimental procedures. All of these prolong life but have residuals that will affect their entire system to ultimately come face-to-face with the reality that “There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power over the day of death” (Eccl. 8:8). Well, according to the medical professionals, my condition is not so-headed. However, that doesn’t mean I may not get hit by a Mac truck somewhere along the way.

I have received many words of encouragement, but out of them all the one that resonates is, “Be patient,” or “Have patience.” In the world of philosophy, patience is described as “The deliberate practice of the virtue or habit of patience is the emotional reaction that you have for whatever is forcing you to be patient” (philosophy forum). Patience is not something that can be practiced! How is a person to “be patient,” when there is nothing for which they are to wait? Thinking about Habakkuk, the Lord said, “For the vision is yet for the appointed time, and it hasteth toward the end, and shall not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not delay” (Hab. 2:3). The apostle Paul applied “hope” to the success of “patience,” saying, “For in hope were we saved: but hope that is seen is not hope: for who hopeth for that which he seeth? But if we hope for that which we see not, then do we with patience wait for it” (Rom. 8:24-25): Aristotle said, “Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.”

I have a brother in Christ that has been a straight shooter when it comes to identifying what I need to know about things 😊. On one occasion, we were discussing my lack of patience involving my healing process, in which he said, “you are dumb on patience” 😊. Well! I could be plumb offended by such a statement, but not even close. I have learned to listen to his wisdom. So, as I reflected upon the statement, I was able to see that physically, mentally, and unfortunately spiritually many, bless their heart, are “dumb on patience.” Those that are not “dumb on patience” have generally developed their patience because of adversity: Solomon said, “In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider; yea, God hath made the one side by side with the other, to the end that man should not find out anything that shall be after him” (Eccl. 7:14). Ross Triplett, Sr.