

Patience During Pandemic

Within a few months of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in December 2019, public warnings and actions accelerated past their previously steady peak. Local, state, and even national authorities declared states of emergency or imposed lockdowns. A wave of institutions throughout the country, including Spicer Adventist University, have advised students not to return until further notice, and students and professors alike have been forced to adjust immediately to online formats for the near future to continue education uninterrupted. We have been dealing with the deadly virus for the past two years. Nobody knows what will happen next. The unknown, unseen, yet frightening uncertain future has driven us to be impatient and stressed. Normalcy, stable finances, effective education, and even life are all in jeopardy. This article contains compiled opinions and perspectives from Spicer Adventist University's colleagues and friends. As you read this, I urge you to gaze beyond the horizon as you exercise patience in the midst of the pandemic crisis.



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Times of crisis demand from us responsible reaction and committed consciousness. Covid-19 pandemic has been one such crisis of humungous proportions, creating levels of uncertainty among so wide a population across the world that panic and blunder more often defined how countries reacted to it than wisdom and vigilance. But, beyond the initial faltering, the world today needs to get its act together and respond with greater discernment. It is a time in which leaders of men at all levels need to put out their best and bring about a sense of certitude and direction.

As did a majority of people around the globe, in our own corner, scores of people have suffered due to the pandemic – through loss of life, of career, of business, of livelihood. While providing reassurance to the affected is an urgent need, it is also important to move in the direction of creating a sense of normalcy and well-being in the society. I think as our governments and national leaders continue to find ways of putting our countries back on track, it is upon us to find ways of rediscovering the past rhythm of life.

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This we can achieve best by compassion, conscience and commitment. At distressing times such as this, compassion is needed for us to come together in solidarity. It can draw us out of our narrow self-interest and enable us to be responsive to the needs of our fellow beings. The need of the people are not

just financial or material; fellowship, kindness, assurance and many other ways of companionship are required to bring the light of hope in the lives of people.

I believe that at times of distress, it is essential to keep faith and to persist with hope. Above all, immense patience. Patience will help us to re-imagine our future in such a way that, at least some of the mistakes made during this pandemic period, are overcome.

Epicurus, a Greek philosopher said, “*A just God and unjust evil cannot co-exist*”. We know very well that unjust evil is present in the world and that God definitely exists.



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He exercised! It was His patience that wrought the most perfect sacrifice and made reparation for the sinfulness of mankind. Every moment we need to look up to this supreme epitome of patience to learn from him to bear fruits in crisis through patience.

Although we have faith in God and trust in Him, there could be moments in our lives when we question God, “Why is this injustice happening to me? Why must my loved ones suffer so? Why is so much pain borne by the innocent?” Pertinent questions indeed whose answers elude us.

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“As An Example of Suffering and Patience” (James. 5:10) in The Holy Bible there is a true to life example of a weed among the wheat – Judas the disciple of Jesus. Jesus was well acquainted with Judas’ nature and knew his weakness but patiently prayed for him. He never once confronted him with his faults but gently tried to lead him to a higher and nobler nature by continuing to entrust him with privileges and responsibilities as He did with His other disciples. In spite of Jesus great forbearance towards him, Judas continued to take advantage even to the point of betraying Jesus.

Jesus’ patience was steeped in an unconditional love for sinner and righteous alike, which included Judas who led Him to the Cross. A weed like Judas choked the life out of Jesus by his cunning ways. Even then, Jesus did not rave and rant at the injustice of it all to the Heavenly Father. He continued to bear all His sufferings with the same patience that He had exercised all along, so much so that, even when His life was fading, He pleaded with His Father, “Forgive them for they do not know what they do” (Lk. 23:34). The prayer was made for all those who betrayed, denied and crucified Him. That prayer bore fruit, through the supreme sacrifice of His self on the Cross. How overwhelming is the end result of the patience



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Our inherent nature is to seek answers when presented with challenges and uncertainties. But when our quest does not yield answers, what should we resort to? Apprehension or assurance, discouragement or diligence, perplexity or patience. Patience is not a virtue bestowed upon us due to an invocation, but we are given opportunities to exercise patience throughout our lives. Patience, like a muscle, needs to be flexed and worked to grow strong. Long hours at the gym build strong muscles, but facing life's hardships with faith and hope builds patience.

We live in an unparalleled period of history, and the global health crisis, with its cascading effects on the economy and society, has presented us with a unique set of problems. However, among this scene of gloom, we can draw assurance from our faith, from our families and friends, from people who have faced adversity before us.

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The future may appear unclear as to if seen through a tinted window. That being said, this too shall pass, and we shall have many reasons to be grateful. Till then, let us show due diligence to what is given to us and exercise patience in adversity.

The crisis is creating fear in people's life. What I would like to underline and state is, should we live in "fear" when the sovereign Lord of the universe is on our side? That doesn't mean we be blind to what's happening in the world. With all these if the devil is able to take our focus away from the mission of God, he is jovial. In my opinion the underpinning state of mind that we the followers of the true God should be that of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Put it simply, drawing from Jesus' words, *"Do not be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell"* (Matt 10:28), we should say like the Hebrew boys, my God is able to save me from any danger that the devil and his agents may plot, but even if it is the other way, I am willing to lay down my life for His glory. May the Almighty god remove fear that the devil sowed in human hearts and may we be empowered by the Spirit of the Almighty God, galvanize the spirit of colleagues in the mission that our focus unitedly, may be fixed on the mission of God, the only and ultimate solution to all human problems.



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