



## ... Heart to Heart ...

Patience is the nature of God. "...when the patience of God kept waiting in days of Noah..." (I Pet. 3:20) All those years it took to construct that ark, and God patiently waited to see if anyone else wanted to be saved from the waters of eternal doom. "Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?" (Rom. 2:4) God isn't only patient but kind in His patience. How patient does God have to be with each of us?

We've heard all the jokes and poke fun at our lack of patience. But it is a very serious matter to God and something we need to seriously consider. We find ourselves in positions that test our patience, which is good. Teens waiting for a drivers license after the test; a young mother and father just days before delivery; the test results of an MRI; a family waiting news of one in surgery; the return of soldiers from war; parents in dealing with their children. So much in life is spent waiting, and yet do we learn from the Lord His patience?

David had a great ability to patiently wait on God. He found himself under distress at different times, being alone while his enemies sought his life. He didn't know what to do, but he knew one thing: "To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust..." (Psa. 25:1-2) His trust in the Lord and the lifting up his soul brought him comfort and patience. He didn't know what path to take or what decision needed to be made, he simply waited on the Lord and trusted in Him.

Elijah learned the Lord's patience as he had to go seven times to look toward the sea before he saw a cloud about the size of a man's hand with the promise of rain, which brought an abundance of water (I Kings 18:45). He waited with patience, then came the blessings.

What about us? We are in situations that make us anxious or try our patience. Why do you think we are in them? To help us become more like our Father. We need situations to teach us patience and patience can only come about if we put our trust in Him. "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him." (Psalm 37:7) Blessings always follow when we put our trust in Him, while being patient and waiting for the Lord. The lacking of patience and trust (called anxiety or worry) will only lead to wrong reactions. Just read Psalm 37 and it becomes real clear for us. Think about it!!!

Brent