

## **Ole Miss FCA Weekly Devotional: 12/21/09**

*The Power and Passion of the Master Coach, Elliot Johnson*



### **Thought of the Week:**

God is Patient

### **Verse of the Week:**

But You, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. Psalm 86:15

Patience is a valuable asset in the sports world. Roger Staubach believed that former Dallas Cowboy coach Tom Landry personified this attribute. Staubach reportedly said of Landry: "His self-control is amazing. I know he's been in moods or situations where he wanted to explode. But he wouldn't. His emotions stay inside. Tom controls himself better than any human being I've ever seen."

God is patient. He is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness. His love waits patiently for us to turn to Him. As we go our own way in rebellion against God, He waits. He waits out our blunders, mishaps, misunderstandings, wrong intentions, skepticism, and faithlessness. God endures all of our imperfections. Consider the example of Jesus with the twelve bumbling disciples. They lacked faith and understanding. They were fearful. Judas was a betrayer. The Bible says that Jesus loved even Judas to the end (John 13:1). During the Last Supper, Jesus knew he was going to betray Him, but He washed Judas' feet and seated him at a place of honor! That's patience! Jesus was kind and patient with a man who was about to sell Him for thirty pieces of silver. The patient hand of Jesus reached out to Judas all the way to the cross.

The word patience can also be translated long-suffering. "Long-suffering" sums up God's attitude toward us. God suffers long when we sin. His heart breaks as we rebel. Yet, He endures. He is committed to completing the work He has begun in us (Philippians 1:5-6). We must give praise and thanksgiving to our long-suffering God, for He endures with us to the end.

Not only is God patient with His children, but He is also patient with a lost, rebellious world. God continues to withhold His judgment of the people and the nations of the world. He still offers salvation, free to all. He delayed the flood for 120 years to give the world more time to repent. God does not desire that any should perish, but that all would come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). It is God's desire that everyone be saved, and because of this desire, He waits.

Impatience can cause a baseball player to swing at bad pitches and hurt his team. But God is never impatient. He is long-suffering toward mankind, and He waits for us to come to repentance and salvation.

Time Out:

- (1) Most of God's servants have waited patiently upon God. Are you as patient with God as He is with you? We must wait upon God with hope and confidence, not with skepticism and doubt. Read Psalm 40:1-5 to see the benefits of waiting with confidence upon God.
- (2) God is developing patience within us, both toward Him and toward others. He develops this patience through trials and testings. Meditate upon Romans 5:3-5 and James 1:2-4.
- (3) We must run our Christian race with patient endurance. As we suffer and hurt along

the way, we must keep our eyes upon Jesus, who suffered for us (Hebrews 12:1-3).

(4) What do these Scriptures teach about patience?

- Matthew 27:38-44
- Mark 15:28-32
- 2 Corinthians 6:4
- Colossians 1:11
- Isaiah 40:11
- Numbers 14:18
- Psalm 86:5
- Psalm 37:1
- Proverbs 3:31
- Jeremiah 15:15