



DR. GARY & BARB ROSBERG

“What’s your hurry?” **January 2010**

Have you ever gotten the advice ‘don’t pray for patience?’ It does seem that when we pray for patience, we are presented with even more chances to practice it. We want to start this month by sharing with you about a recent situation that required a large dose of patience from us.

In the middle of the night a week or two ago, Barb woke up with a sensation of having something ‘explode’ in her head. After feeling this for a little while, Gary and Barb headed to the Emergency Room to find out what was wrong.

Several tests were done and they all seemed clear. Nothing was found to be causing Barb’s symptoms. That was a relief, but there was still one test needed to confirm that there was not any bleeding on her brain that could lead to an aneurysm. It was a spinal tap.

The thought of having a spinal tap was frightening. Barb at one point looked at Gary and said ‘I’m afraid’ and Gary replied, ‘then you do it afraid.’ A doctor friend happened to be at the same hospital and came right in to see Barb. They prayed together for God’s protection during the procedure.

Gary needed a serious amount of patience as he waited in the hall while Barb was having the spinal tap. He had faith and was clinging to the fact that when things are out of your control, faith is the refusal to panic. God uses testing like this in our lives to teach us and refine us.

When you are tested, you will find out that you’re ok on the other side. But you can’t learn from these tests if you self-protect or numb yourself in the fire. After going through the process of being tested, and demonstrating patience, your relationship with Christ will be deeper and you will have a new layer of patience in the future.

Barb was able to endure the spinal tap and thankfully, it showed nothing to be wrong. Some of her closest friends came to the hospital and encouraged her. This was a small taste of the ‘treasure’ that was given to Barb after this trial.

Whenever you go through a season of patience, you will be given a treasure on the other side of it. The treasure will be in the form of greater peace and closeness to God.

You may be going through a time requiring great patience right now. Here are some examples of those times that we need to practice patience and faith.

- A prodigal child that you are waiting for to come home.
- Being the caretakers of your ailing parents.
- Seasons of infertility as you wait and long for a child.
- A severed marriage that you want to have repaired.

1 Peter 4:13 (New International Version)

But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

This verse doesn't mean that you have to rejoice because your circumstance is difficult. But the rejoicing comes because you believe that God will use those circumstances for His glory. You have hope and the object of that hope is Christ.

TURN TO YOUR MATE

Talk with your spouse and identify one area in your marriage where you could use more patience. It may be in a trial you are currently facing, or a season you want to hurry through. Pray together and ask God for patience in that area. Also ask yourselves this: what character quality of God do we want revealed in us through this circumstance?

Isaiah 30:21 (New International Version)

21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 43

Israel's Only Savior

1 But now, this is what the LORD says—

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,

they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,

you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze.

3a For I am the LORD, your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior

COACHING DRILL

Now it's time for this month's Coaching Drill. Remember, we want you to put this drill into practice, and then we want to hear from you – tell us how it's working in your marriage!

Here's the drill:

We encourage you to start off this year right by doing three things consistently:

1. Check in with God
Get to know God's Word well. We recommend the One Year Bible as an easy way to get into God's Word each day throughout the year.
2. Check in with your spouse
Put aside time each day to build into your marriage. Talk together about what God is doing in your lives. This will help build deep roots in your marriage to allow you to weather the storms that may come in the future.
3. Check in with a good support system
Who are the people surrounding you that are helping you grow closer to Christ? Identify them or seek out new friends and support people.

You can learn more about the One Year Bible on our website, www.TheGreatMarriageExperience.com.