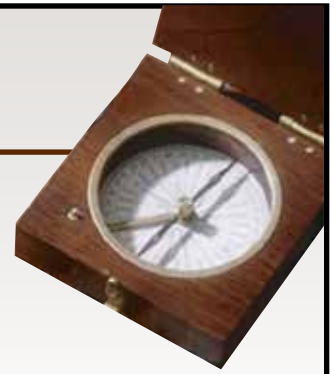


The Self-Government Principle of Patience



“Be patient and you will finally win, for a soft tongue can break hard bones.” Proverbs 25:15

Underline the key concepts found in this principle.

In this generation of instant food, instant information and instant messaging we must not forget the great virtue of patience. Patience is not procrastination or delaying an obligation; it is waiting for the right time. In the appropriate moment we will achieve better results and avoid many difficulties.

When we are angry, we need to wait until we cool off before we act. As the old proverb says “When the student is ready, the teacher will appear.” This means there is a time in which a person is more ready to accept and receive. If it is done prematurely, we may receive an argument or opposition. Quick responses from unprepared hearts only complicate the situation, and in the end everyone loses. It takes time to develop people. Leadership is leading people, and getting them to see what they need to see. It is teaching them how, when and why you want to get them there. Patience will give all those involved peace and security.

Even though we are constantly pushed for higher levels of production, we must take the time to nurture people, not treat them as if they were machines. There are problems that cannot be solved right away and we must allow time for change. Change is a process that requires patience or we may add to the problem. It is important to sense the mood of an employee or team

before we give correction or a change in direction. Patience is an art.

If we are not patient, we can become arrogant and oppressive and we will not stimulate or motivate people. This can be expensive, and we will pay the price for our lack of patience, all we may receive back is opposition. Patience is being able to discern the right time to act. This is a true gift of the wise. Never let a problem hold you hostage, always deal with it.

BENEFITS

Practicing patience brings these benefits:

1. We will learn to wait until we know that we have the right attitude because it is very important that we find a solution, not just deal with the problem.
2. We will be emotionally prepared before we give correction or directional changes.
3. We will learn that practicing patience gives us the ability to identify the right time to act or sort out situations.
4. We will learn to distinguish whether we need to act or to wait.
5. We will develop self-control.
6. We will create security and peace to those around us.

Action Plan for Patience



STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Control your emotions by talking softly at the most critical times, recognize that in order to solve the problem, we need to be cautious or it may create a greater problem.
2. Listen to make sure that you understand and determine how to solve the problem as if it were your own.
3. Hold your peace and calm the fears of others involved by giving good counsel.
4. Learn that there is an appropriate moment to deal with every problem. It is not good to always attack problems immediately
5. Let problems season and mature. If you deal with problems prematurely, you will waste your energy and the energy of other people. Problems attacked prematurely get worse. Learn to discern the right moment.
6. Let patience prepare your heart. This will allow you to work out problems the best way especially those that have irritated you and made you angry. If you have doubts, wait for a moment. If you react by impulse, you can harm and hurt others. Sometimes, just waiting a few seconds could make a great difference, allowing you to think and make better decisions.

Everyone should have the right to express their views, but we need to wait until

the end to be able to see all the angles and decide what is right. It takes time to develop people. We have to learn when to push and when to pull. In a family setting, it is even more critical because it affects our day to day life. Patience will prepare our own hearts as well as those with whom we are dealing. The next time you are hasty or pushy, stop and practice a little patience. You'll be wiser and more appreciated.

Remember... thoughts produce actions, actions become habits, habits form our character, and character determines our destiny!

REFLECT AND RESPOND

1. Are you a procrastinator?
2. In which environment is it harder to practice your patience?
3. Does it bother you when nothing happens?

Evaluate yourself from 1 to 10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
What specific action can you put into practice to test the benefits of this principle?										
Check list for the daily reading of this principle	M	T	W	T	F	S	S			

Completed

Not completed