

HOPELINE

The Newsletter From Christ-In-You Glory Church

05/17

Let Patience Have Its Perfect Work

Written By Pastor Anthony 'Yinka Adesile

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing (James 1:1-2)

I must admit that this discourse did not start with the Scripture above, but succinctly put in proper context the primary revelation that is central to our uplifting. God only needed me to read a verse of the Scripture to provide me with a question and a message:

After these things king Ahaseurus promoted Haman, the son of Hammerdatha the Agate, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him (Esther 3:1)

We must then ask ourselves the same question; why was Haman promoted and Mordecai, who through his righteousness, and in the nature of his work, had intervened to save the king's life, remained poor, unrecognised and completely forgotten? This question is very relevant today because his experience could have made him bitter, and changed his attitude to work, his employer, people and God. This unfortunately, has been and remains the response of many Christians today, to trials of faith.

We must ask ourselves why we missed one of the fundamental part of the Christian race; trials or testings of faith. This is because a complete or partial disregard of this virtue has prematurely aborted God's ultimate plan for many and cost many Christians their eternity with the Lord Christ. Until we understand that faith is never void of trial (or the absence of trial), we will continue to be a breed of confessed but unapproved Christians. Ultimately, it is God that justifies and approves us as His own - not man.

A carnal mind that does not understand the ways of God, can be tempted to envy the sudden promotion of Haman, not minding the nefarious activities lead-



ing to such elevation or attainment. Today, we do not seem to care about how wealth, positions and status are acquired and could be willing participants should such offer come our way. But Mordecai was a man of understanding. He knew who he was before God, stood in the grace and basked in the glory of God that made him outstanding even when unrecognised. He was not envious of Haman for his position and neither did he hate the man. But he despised his idolatry and refused to bow in order to receive tacit acknowledgement from a man of such position and power. In hindsight, such ill-gotten or

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Blessings In Disguise

And he said to his father, "my head, my head!" So he said to a servant, "carry him to his mother." When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died (2 Kings 4:19-20)

Anyone who knew the story of this mother and her child would have a thousand and one reasons why the mother should have been left alone and not be told she would have a child, which she did have but was now dead. Would it not have been better to be without a boy than to have one that would die so young? One would even wonder whether she deserved to go through such agony and affliction at all. After all she had done for Elisha, the prophet and by so doing, for God; should she be repaid for her kindness and love for God in this manner?

Yes, many faced with similar conditions might take that route of blaming God and many still do. We often attribute blame to God for misfortunes, great trials and afflictions and fail to see God, holding our hands and gently guiding us towards a glorious outcome.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28)

But this woman was a woman of faith and courage. In her heart, she was persuaded that the child would live, perhaps because of the nature of his birth and made a decision to appeal to Elisha who prophesied his birth. She did not even tell her husband that their son had died but rather told him, "it is well," following her request

for a means of transport. She chose not to allow anyone or anything to raise doubt in her mind and continually affirmed the word, "it is well". Of course her faith was rewarded and the boy lived.

Which brings us to the question, why did the child die? Well, we may never know but we do know one thing:

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy (John 10:10)

God, however, always have a better outcome, as it was evident in that of this woman. But the remarkable thing about her experience was that years later, it was a notable point of reference that brought relief to the woman after returning from her seven years of self-exile to find all her possessions taken. God had so planned and timed it that it was an account of this miracle of the woman and her son whom the LORD raised back to life that the king was receiving from Gehazi, Elisha's former servant, when she came in to appeal to the king.

So the king appointed a certain officer for her, saying, "restore all that was hers, and all the proceeds of the field from the day that she left the land until now (2 Kings 8:6)

God after all, always knows the end of a matter from the beginning. Her afflictions were blessings in disguise. So also is yours.

Let Patience Have Its Perfect Work (Continued)

or undeserved positions tend to be the beginning of the end for many, as it was for Haman.

As for Mordecai, he was not remembered and was passed over many times over because God had a more glorious plan for him. It was important that he passed the trials that was to lead to the attainment of honour and wealth. This is the faith that has endured from the time of Adam and Eve; experienced by men and women in the record book of faith in Hebrews; and by many men and women of old and today also. It certainly is not the faith being peddled in many churches today, which is sensual, inspires the pursuit of worldliness and complicates the plan and work of God in the life of the believer.

Are you going through testing times now? Have you been passed over many times over for honour, promotion or status? Do you understand God's plan? Are you fully trusting, and have you or are you about to compromise your ways? Remember Mordecai: He endured trials but his humble position was the platform God used to prepare and lift him up. At the appointed time, God opened the heavens and in quick successions, brought about chain of events leading to honour, position, fame and victory for the Jews: His arch enemy, Haman was disgraced and eventually hung on the tree he meant for Mordecai; the king lost his sleep until he remembered to honour him; he was honoured with a

deserving position that made that of Haman unremarkable; he was a key vessel in the deliverance of the Jews; and the list goes on. God has not forgotten you; be careful not to forget Him and His glorious plan for you. Let patience have its perfect work.

Programme Flash

- **A Holy Convocation:** Join us every Sunday on a fulfilling time of worship from 10:30 - 13.00
- **Prayer Points Meeting:** We'll love to have you at our last Friday of each month Prayer Points meetings from 19:15 - 20:50
- **Covenant Sunday:** Fancy going through each month with a clear promise from God? Then don't miss the First Sunday service of the month where we receive our theme for the month - a word from the LORD to hold on to.
- **Communion Service:** Every first Sunday of the month

Venue:

Christ-In-You Glory Church

Music Room, First Floor
Deptford Lounge, Deptford Library
9 Giffin Street
London, SE8 4RJ