



RISE UP

Challenging men to live up to God's calling!

Rise up and be patient!

1 Timothy 6:11

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on October 21, 2023



Pastor Rick Lancaster

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Opening Comments

- Today we continue our Men's Ministry series: **RISE UP: Challenging men to live up to God's calling!**
- Let's begin with a word of prayer. **Pray!**
- Turn in your Bibles to **1 Timothy 6**
- The Men's Bible Study has been going through 1 Timothy for a few weeks.
- I would like to share something out of one of my favorite sections of Paul's letter to Timothy.
- In verse 11 of our text Paul instructs us that there are six things we must pursue as men of God.
- Let's read the whole paragraph and then we will talk about one of those six things.
- **1 Timothy 6:11-16**
- Some of you might be like me and have mastered several of these spiritual disciplines.
- For example, I am the most patient man I know.
- Except when things don't go the way I plan them.
- And except for the times people around me do things that annoy me.
- And except for when my wife doesn't agree with me, or she isn't ready to go when I am, or she tries to tell me how to drive.
- And except for when the kids do weird things.
- And except for when something breaks on my car or in my house.
- Or except when my projects don't go as planned.
- Okay, so maybe I haven't mastered patience after all.
- There are times when I am impatient.
- There are lots of ways that impatience shows up in our lives.
- It can be outbursts of anger, frustration, sarcasm, cutting or unkind words, condescending attitudes.
- Each of us probably has our own special way of expressing impatience.

- The thing we need to understand is that every one of them is sinful.
- What does it mean to be patient?

Defined: the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.

- When we think about patience, we often think we are being patient if we do not allow our emotions to come out.
- But that is not what patience is.
- Patience is not about stopping yourself from exploding.
- You are practicing self-control, which is good, but it is not patience.
- Patience is about being in such control of yourself that you feel no need or desire to explode.
- Turn to **James 1**.
- One of my desires is that I would be a better man, husband, father, grandfather, friend, and pastor.
- And I know that one of the places I need to improve in is in patience.
- And here in the beginning of the epistle of James, the half-brother of Jesus, we see an interesting connection between the things we are going through and patience.
- **James 1:2-4**
- The goal we are looking for in our lives is perfection or completeness.
- That is the same goal that God has for His men **Romans 8:29**
For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.
- It is God's will that each of us be like Jesus in all areas of our life.
- All of us are work-in-progress.
- We are not perfect, but if we are seeking after God, we are being perfected, little-by-little, day-by-day.
- James describes something of a process that leads to patience.
- First, it begins with 'various trials'.
- We tend to think this is applying to the really big storms of life.
- 'various' suggests that it is more than just the big ones.
- Personally, I am certain that it is the little trials that God uses to teach us about patience.
- Some of them are so small we don't even want to call them trials; instead we call them inconveniences, nuisances, annoyances.

- One that God has been working on in my life is when I go somewhere with my wife.
- I have this thing about being on time, I think it is important, it is disrespectful to others to be late.
- I want to leave at least 10 to 15 minutes before we need to be there.
- I want to allow for traffic, and other issues that might come up.
- My wife has a completely different view of this.
- Being late is not really that big of a deal to her.
- She feels it is a waste of time to leave any earlier than the amount of time it takes to get where we are going.
- I can't tell you how many times I have been standing at the door, ready to go, and watching the clock tick away any hope of being on time.
- And then as she is ready to go, she asks me if I have done something I didn't know needed to be done.
- And when we finally get in the car to go, she informs me we need to stop and pick something up on the way.
- This used to ruin me – didn't matter where we were going, I would not be happy about it – I was miserable, frustrated, angry, even resentful.
- I tried everything I could think of to change her.
- The problem is – she wasn't the one with a problem, I was.
- In reality, this was not something I would call a big trial, but it happened a lot.
- And at some point, God started getting through to me that I was being impatient.
- I was choosing to be miserable and making others miserable too.
- It is still something that I struggle with.
- But now I see it for what it is, it is God trying to teach me patience.
- James, in verse 3 says that trials are for the testing of our faith.
- This is a fascinating thought to me.
- Trials have a purpose – they are to test something, to test my faith.
- That means the trials that we face are being used by God to determine if our faith is real or not.

- When I was being impatient with my wife, it proved something was wrong with my faith – I have failed the test.
- Every trial we come to in life will prove if our faith is strong or weak, real or imagined.
- And it is in the little day-to-day tests that come that give us the opportunity to grow our faith.
- One of the things that God taught me was that my impatience was unloving.
- Ephesians 5:25 commands me, ‘Husbands love your wives’.
- When I was impatient, I was doing the opposite of loving her.
- And so, I started trying to figure out how to love her during those times.
- Tried to find ways to help her get ready.
- Learned those things she wanted to make sure were done before we left.
- But I also spent some time, usually while I was waiting, trying to understand why it bothered me so much.
- And to my great shock I discovered it was because of pride and selfishness in me.
- God wanted me to humble myself and trust Him with my time.
- I still believe He wants me to be on time, but I am getting better at being patient when we are not on time – at least my view of being on time.
- And I am finding that it makes those times when we are not on my schedule much more enjoyable.
- Men, we have the power to make any situation better or worse.
- Kelly knows that I would rather get a root canal than go to a child’s birthday party who isn’t related to us. Or to a baby shower.
- But if she does ask me, I know it is important to her for me to be there for some reason.
- I will do my best to go with the right attitude – it is an act of sacrificial love.
- Now, most of the time when I am starting to feel impatience, I tend to have a different attitude about it.

- I realize it is a trial God has allowed in my life to help me to be conformed to the image of Jesus.
 - Turn to **2 Corinthians 10** as we prepare to conclude our time.
 - In verse 2, James says, ‘count it all joy’.
 - Can’t say that I am able to always do that, but I am doing it more.
 - As long as we walk in this world, in this flesh, our faith will be tested, our patience will be tested.
 - And too often, we try to fight that battle in the flesh.
 - **2 Corinthians 10:3**
 - The true battleground is not the flesh, and because we often fight the battle in the flesh, we don’t win.
 - **2 Corinthians 10:4-5**
 - ‘...the weapons of our warfare are mighty in God...’
 - We don’t lose because we don’t have what we need to win.
 - We lose because we don’t use what we have been given to be victorious.
 - Paul said in **Ephesians 6:10-13**
- Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**
- The next time you find yourself becoming impatient, stop and ask yourself what about your faith needed this test.
 - Because, if your faith didn’t need some work, you wouldn’t be impatient.
 - Pray, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to stand in the victory of Christ.
 - And if you are struggling in some particular area, ask a brother in the Lord to help you.
 - Men of God, Rise up and be patient, like Our Lord, Christ Jesus.
 - **Let’s pray!**