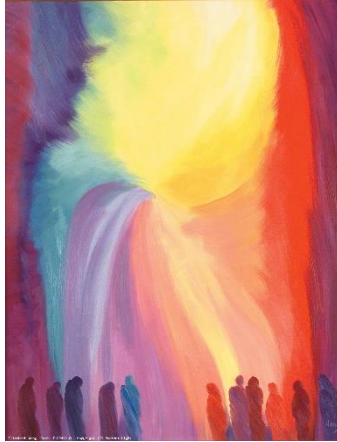


THE PATIENCE OF GOD



God's Grace Elizabeth Wang

***Slow to anger
And plenteous in mercy***

Exodus 34:6

Who of us has not been spared countless times by the mysterious patience of God?

He could have called us to account.

He could have nailed us to the wall.

He could have caused the mud we threw out there to come back to us and cover us with shame.

But life went on as usual.

Did God ignore our sin?

Did he ignore those malicious words?

That cowardly silence?

That willful ignorance of the suffering before our eyes?

The Father saw it all.

Yet he chose to be patient.

To give us a chance to wake up.

He is waiting for us to see our folly and change our ways.

To receive forgiveness and learn to forgive.

***This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,
who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

I Timothy 2:4

If we were half as patient with each other as God is with us....

If we were half as patient with “those sinners out there” as God is with us....

But there comes a moment in each of our lives when the Father calls us to account.

We're not talking about the Final Judgment. We're talking about a foretaste of that Final Judgment.

When God's unspeakable patience calls in the chips.

We refused to forgive.

We refused to change our attitude.

In his mysterious mercy the Father now allows us to reap what we sowed.

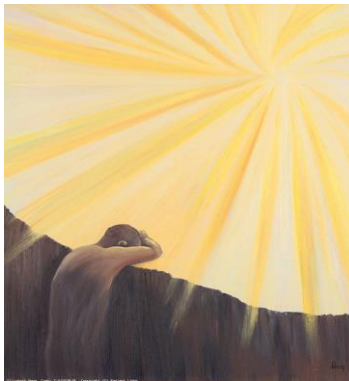
Has the Father "lost patience" with us?

No, the Father's patience is still there.

Waiting for us to come to the Cleansing Fountain of Calvary. And begin walking in the light.

*Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me!*

Psalm 51:2,3,10



Shame Elizabeth Wang

Prayer

Lord how often you have graciously rescued us from our own folly. Thank you, thank you for relieving us of the consequences of our thoughtlessness, our hurtful words, our indifference. Oh Lord forgive us for our harshness, our attitudes. They reek of darkness, of such ungratefulness. Thank you for stopping us, for convicting us, for allowing us to be shocked and disgusted by the ugliness within us. Cleanse us, give us new hearts that are lighted and filled with the mercy and the patience and the deep love you've covered us with. May it pour out to others as an offering of worship and gratefulness to you.

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Maranatha Mirror Messages

mmirror.net

maranathamirror18@gmail.com

586-530-6983 (text or call)



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