

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

One of the most difficult lessons to learn for many of us believers is not to get wound up, impatient or anxious. Often when we are facing the trials of life, those very trials take precedence in our thought life. It is the only thing we talk about let alone pray about. It's like having a bad tooth, no other part of the body has the priority that the bad tooth has. So how are we expected not to be anxious?

This very lesson is often taught to those who enter a divine school, called 'Wilderness University.' There the Master Teacher, our Lord, takes us from trial to trial to remove the dross in each of our lives. Most often, that dross is nothing less than 'stinking thinking.' It is our carnal thinking that trips us up more than anything else. That's why we expect that the Lord should be just as impressed upon to meet our need, as we are. Patience has nothing to do with this. We want it fixed long before patience should even be a consideration. Then when we find ourselves still facing this trial, long after our faith said it should be gone; then most often we struggle with our belief system. The problem is not the Lord or His Word, it's us. We simply can't understand why God would even allow us to go through something like this in the first place. He allows us to go through it, because He loves us.

God took me through such a school that lasted for almost ten years. I can honestly say that I am not even close to the man that I was when I first enrolled. Enroll you might say, who would ever choose to enroll in such a thing? Have you ever said or prayed, "Lord take me closer to you, Lord do whatever you need to change this situation in my life, Lord give me patience, Lord I need more humility?" You see, He impresses upon our hearts the need to be closer to Him. So, then we cry out to Him for more, more of Him, the next thing we know, the bottom falls out beneath us. We're perplexed, confused and simply don't understand how our wires got crossed with the Lord. All we wanted was to be closer to Him, and now we feel further away than ever before. Congratulations, your enrollment in Wilderness University, has been granted!!

Hebrews 12:6 says, **'FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.'**

God loves His children so much, that He won't leave us the way we are. The only way that will happen, is if we willfully decide not to change. If you are serious about your relationship with the Lord, then I exhort you to embrace whatever it is that He is taking you through, and to cast all of your cares upon Him! You will know that you are closing your time at 'Wilderness U', when you can start thanking, worshipping and even praising Him in the midst of it all. Trust me; this is near impossible without Him changing your heart first. This school may be the toughest thing you ever face in this life, but the benefits are eternal. May God grant you the grace today, to face your life with a heart of thanksgiving.