

Beware of Those Lazy Days

By Rev. Julia Schwert

July makes us think of hot summer days, picnics, fireworks, family get-togethers, and perhaps water activities. Kids are out of school on their summer vacation. Adults may take time off from work to spend quality time with their kids or just to relax and do something fun instead of their daily work routine.

This is the time of the year when we need to be on the alert! The enemy of our soul would like to wiggle his way into our life and get us all messed up. Of course, he really likes to do that every day, but seemingly whenever we take a break from our daily routine, he is ready to pounce. This is not to say that we shouldn't get away or relax; we all need to do that for our physical well-being. My warning is that we don't become lax, slothful, or lazy in our spiritual walk with the Lord.

Our spiritual walk is not just about where will we spend eternity. It really is more about 'What must I do to **serve** the Lord down here on the earth.' Hebrews 6:12 reads "*That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*" The reference to slothful here is referring to being **lazy** in following what God says you are to do. God has given us many promises, but the question to ask ourselves in this verse is 'Will we **inherit** the promises?'

There are two things mentioned in the above verse that can keep us from inheriting the promises: **faith** and **patience**. The verse says to not be lazy, but be **followers** of them who walked in faith and patience. We are given many examples of believers who learned how to inherit the promises of God. We are simply to **follow** their examples. Faith and patience go hand in hand but are not always easy to accomplish.

Faith means 'Because I am looking with my spiritual eyes, I see the promise being fulfilled in my life.' I may not understand the 'how,' but I do know that God is working the answer out for me. My job is to do what I am supposed to do to bring it into fulfillment. Let me give you an example: If the doctor says I need surgery; my spirit rises up in me and says I am healed! The doctor does his part, but my faith also comes into play. The doctor can fix things in the natural body; however, the doctor cannot make my body mend. I must do my part by standing on the **stated truth** of God's Word. Wisdom says follow the doctor's advice and limit the physical body until you receive manifested healing. This is the second part of receiving the promise . . . **patience**.

We have been introduced 'in this world' to instant gratification. We even like it! Go to the ice cream shop and instantly you can purchase an ice cream cone. You don't have to wait while they churn the ice cream by hand – it is ready at the flip of a switch. Patience in today's world seems to be a thing of the past. Everyone is saying, 'Hurry up; what's taking you so long?'

Now the God of **patience** and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus – Romans 15:5. God is a **patient God**. Aren't you glad? If He was impatient, He would give up on me when I don't obey Him and delay the fulfillment of **His Plan** in my life. Do I ever get impatient? Yes. However, I **must** learn that God doesn't get nervous. His plan for me **will be** fulfilled in my life **if** I learn to walk by faith and patience. Patience will bring the manifested (obvious) healing into my body so all can see. It is no longer faith when it is obvious. But until faith becomes obvious, I must have patience working in my life or I will hinder God's perfect plan; and thus, will not inherit **all** of the promises God has for me and others through me. *Father, help me walk in patience so others can receive from you through me.*