

## LifeGroup Questions

Based On: Colossians 1:9-14

November 12, 2017

### Overview

John 16:33 states, “<sup>33</sup> I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Jesus is giving His disciples a final message before He goes to the cross. He is looking beyond His current circumstances. He is telling His disciples that they will have trouble. Being a follower of Jesus does not eliminate the problems this world has to offer. Sometimes as believers we tend to put God in one corner and worldly problems in another corner. We think that if God was really at work in our lives then we wouldn’t have problems. This is not the case and is why Paul prays for endurance and patience in Colossians.

The prayer for endurance and patience is a repeated theme throughout the New Testament. If we were not meant to have trouble there would be no need for endurance and patience. This is a difficult concept to accept. Often, in the midst of trouble, (loss of a job, sickness, broken relationships) we think that if God would just show up then the trouble would go away. Paul understands this not to be the case. Sometimes we only want to see God’s work and presence in our lives when everything is going well. If we are in the middle of trouble, it is easy to wonder where God is. The Christian life requires walking with endurance and patience.

Paul goes further and states that you can have joy. If you are walking with endurance and patience than you can have joy in trouble. Finding joy can be extremely challenging, because it is hard to see God and trouble at work together in your life. If we think following God only brings prosperity than finding joy when trouble comes will be nearly impossible. God is at work and present in the worst of circumstances. He is not causing the circumstances, but He is also not caught by surprise that they are happening. Finding joy may require you allowing others to speak into your life and see things from a different perspective.

### Bible Study: Colossians 1:9-14

1. Discuss as a group the role endurance and patience has had during difficult times in your life.
2. John Piper once said, “Impatience is a form of unbelief. It's what we begin to feel when we start to doubt the wisdom of God's timing or the goodness of his guidance. It springs up in our hearts when the road to success gets muddy or strewn with boulders or blocked by some fallen tree. The battle with impatience can be a little skirmish over a long wait in a checkout lane. Or it can be a major combat over a handicap or disease or circumstance that knocks out half your dreams.”

The opposite of impatience is not a glib, superficial denial of frustration. The opposite of impatience is a deepening, ripening, peaceful willingness either to wait for God where you are in the place of obedience, or to persevere at the pace he allows on the road of obedience—to wait in his place, or to go at his pace.

Discuss the quote from Piper.

3. In what ways does patience help deepen your relationship with God?
4. In what ways does endurance help deepen your relationship with God?
5. How can walking with patience and endurance lead to you finding joy?