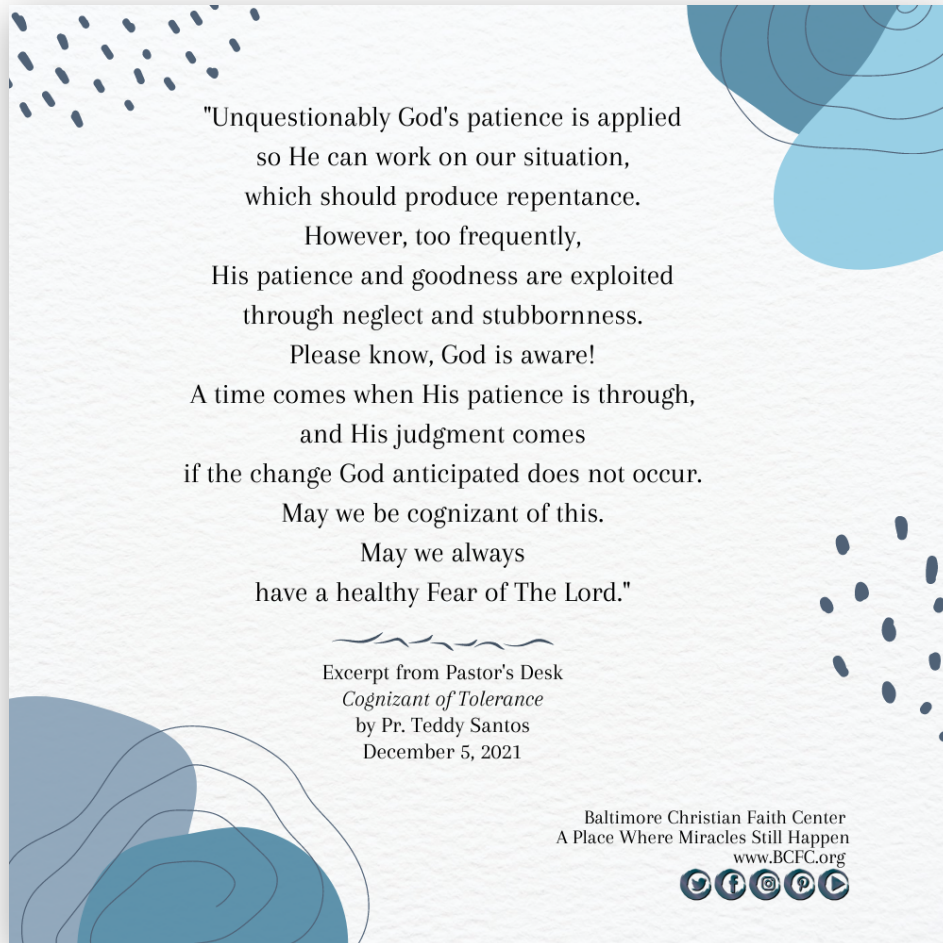


Cognizant of Tolerance

Pastor's Desk – December 5, 2021



Jonah 4:2 *"So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm."*

Our God's patience delays His anger, enabling time for good to occur. We should also regard the other qualities tolerance is linked with here, including **Exodus 34:6** *"And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth."* Along with patience, the attributes of mercy, lovingkindness, grace, goodness, and truth allow The Lord to work with us so we can remain alive and ultimately transform into His image.

If God snapped at people just as short-fused individuals commonly do, we would all be toast. In a typical human reaction, Jonah wanted God to wipe Israel's enemy off the face of the earth! Nineveh was just as full of sinners as Israel; but The Lord, patiently tolerating them in their ignorance, assigned Jonah to declare His warning message: Repent! Or calamity in forty days!

They, in turn, believed the report, declared a fast, prayed vigorously to The Lord, repented, and turned from their wicked habits. Nineveh's repentance may not have been Davidic, but under this particular circumstance, **The Lord was pleased!**

2 Peter 3:9 states that God still acts in the same manner:

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

In Romans 2:3-6, the same theme is more personally discussed, warning us that we should never abuse God's patience by viewing it as mere tolerance. Ecclesiastes 8:11-13 alerts us of the identical perversity of nature that shows itself on those lacking faith.

Unquestionably God's patience is applied so He can work on our situation, which should produce repentance. However, too frequently, His patience and goodness are exploited through neglect and stubbornness. Please know, God is aware! A time comes when His patience is through, and His judgment comes if the change God anticipated does not occur. May we be cognizant of this. May we always have a healthy Fear of The Lord.

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos