

OAK CLIFF
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP



2019
ALL ABOUT WOMEN



FOR WOMEN AT
THE CLIFF



Patience Is More Than a Virtue



By Shanta Campbell

James 1:4 NKJV

“But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

One of the most common phrases widely used is “patience is a virtue.” Some people will even go as far to add, “and that’s one virtue that I do not have.” Maybe that’s been you? I’ll be honest and say that I have thought AND said those very same words...a few times.

Transitioning into a family of four was tough for me, especially being in the motherhood category of “2 under 2”. Between my hormones being out of whack post pregnancy and my “bilingual” two-year-old who could fluently say no in English and Spanish, my patience was shot. One night my son was throwing a temper tantrum, and I’d had enough. I went into a frenzy and yelled as

loud as I could to let him know that the time had ended for that behavior. My reaction was bad. Though I scared him straight, I felt so terrible. I was setting the wrong example for my son of how to handle situations that did not go his way. Just as he was throwing his fit, I was throwing a fit too! I cried out to God that night saying, "Lord! You are so patient with this whole world, even with those who will still choose to reject You when You return. How can I not be patient with my own son?"

His response shook me to my core. God responded sternly yet lovingly, "You are patient with what you find important." Wow, how true (and sad) is that! In that raw revelation, I discovered that in this season of my son's terrific twos, I saw my sanity as more important than his socioemotional development. I reacted out of impatience rather than responding in patience.

It takes patience to respond in love and in a way that is edifying to others. What have you been reacting to lately? Are you finding God's timing to be an inconvenience to your desires?

I want to encourage you to re-posture your heart and see the virtue of patience as more than a challenge. Patience is attainable too. So, the next time you find yourself getting antsy with your husband, your children, a family member, or even a hard-to-be-around coworker, remember that your patience reflects the importance of God's matter to you. Being a vessel for God, even in the most inconvenient times, is always more important than whatever we might be tempted to prioritize at the moment.

Patience is more than a virtue!

Shanta Campbell is a loving wife to Michael Campbell and mother to son, Isaac Knight, and daughter, Adriel Simone. She has a passion for encouraging women in their walk with Christ and creating a community of accountability. Shanta is currently an intern for OCBF Women's Fellowship and the Life on Life Bible Study. God has gifted her to speak life with authority and give hope to those she encounters. Shanta is also a student at the University of Texas at Dallas studying Psychology, and a bank teller at Wells Fargo. She believes in the promises God has whispered over her heart and is walking by faith as His plans come into fruition.

THIS MONTH'S VERSE FOR MEMORY/MEDITATION:

*"Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly." -
Proverbs 14:29*

FEBRUARY PRAYER FOCUS

In the spirit of American Heart Month, pray for physical and spiritual heart health this month. Proverbs 4:23 says *"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."*