

These two drives, **urgency** and **patience** need to work together in our lives. We urgently need to get our inner lives in order and to learn to respond to life with faith and obedience as our first and last line of defence. But we also need a lot of patience because some of the injustices of this life will never be dealt with in this life and we will have to wait for eternity before justice will finally be done. We have to keep our own noses clean and wait patiently for eternity.

But the kind of patience we need is not just a passive acceptance of injustice or just a passive acceptance of the pain and hurt which prowl through so many lives. It is a confidence in the greater purposes of G-d which shall be accomplished, both in this life and in the Kingdom which is coming. David had to learn this when he spent so many years watching Saul make a mess of the kingdom. Jeremiah had to learn this as he watched the kingdom of Judah wither, crumble and finally be destroyed.

The apostle Paul had to learn this while he waited all those years to begin his ministry, after such an incredible conversion and such an eventful response to his coming to faith. He also had to learn this while he was waiting in prison, twice –some two years in the Holy Land and a couple more in Rome. From his writings we can discern that he was not someone who found cooling his heels easy to take. His urgency sometimes nearly consumed him and he had to learn to soar and wait patiently on the L-rd.

How about you? ***The urgency which G-d placed in my heart is an urgency of choice, not an urgency of control.*** Sometimes the thorns in our flesh can become crosses we learn to bear, instead of stumbling blocks which poison our lives with bitterness and frustration. There is always a response G-d wants us to adopt in every life situation which we encounter, and it is not always a solution which will fix things or make them any better. Sometimes He just wants us to trust Him, even when our world feels like it is crumbling and even when it does.

The patience which G-d has also planted in our hearts wants to teach us to trust Him, especially when we do not understand why such bad things have to keep on happening and what keeps so many good things from ever happening. The patience He calls us to exercise means trusting Him whether or not our team wins the Stanley Cup, and whether or not our candidate gets elected.

G-d does not want us just to trust Him while we wait for some kind of break, where the bad guys are headed off at the pass and the good guys win the shootout at the corral. He wants us to trust Him while Jerusalem goes up in flames and even as we watch our people being stuffed into ovens. He wants us to trust Him through all the tragedies of this life and through all the victories of this life, because we can never trust this life. We have to learn to trust Him and it is one of the hardest spiritual lessons we will ever learn. That is why we need patience. We need to learn patience with G-d, patience with life and patience with ourselves, as we learn to balance our urgency with waiting on G-d, learning to soar, instead of squawking.

As a student of history I am amazed at the horror and the wonder which our blood has wandered through, generation by generation, until it was our turn to make a mess of things. As I age, I also begin to understand the dangers of this urgency which boils in my heart and see how quickly it could turn me to the dark side. Unlike Frodo, I probably would have put on the ring and charged the gates of Mordor, because I can't stand it when orcs count down trees.

I also would have probably killed Saul the first time he came after me and would have done more than just cut that guy's ear off. So it is a good thing I can learn from other people's mistakes and from their good examples. Mishpocah, we need to learn to soar and to have patience when bad things happen to good people and there is nothing we can do about it. We need to learn that part of G-d's will for our lives is to trust Him in the dark and in the pain, when evil prevails and no one listens to reason.

He wants us to exercise patience, and for many of us this will not be easy. As I prepare for the retreat in Florida, I am reading a very disturbing book about ministry and I am being challenged to let go of the desire to fix everything and help everyone. I am not being challenged to accept the evil which prowls around me, nor am I being challenged just to sit around and not try to help and heal as part of what it means to be in ministry.

I am being challenged to have patience and to wait on G-d as the major thrust of my ministry, so that I do not grow weary, or faint, but am constantly being renewed as I mount up with wings and soar. Mishpocah, B'nai Chayim needs to learn to soar. We need to learn patience and trust the L-rd with great urgency. We need to learn to respond to the urgency He placed within us and learn to respond the way He wants us to. And here I am not just talking about avoiding evil and practicing good, nor am I just talking about trusting Him with the great plans and the great fears we develop in our pilgrimage through this life.

I am talking about having patience as we watch this amazingly frustrating life unfold around us. I am talking about soaring until the peace which passes understanding brings calm into our hearts and minds, no matter how things turn out. We can only do our best for Him when we trust Him and are patient enough not to let the pain and the passion of this life break our hearts and crush our spirits, or make us rush around like mad men.

We need to respond to the urgency He places in our hearts by learning to make spiritual choices, and not be constantly shooting ourselves in the foot. Some of those choices involve learning to study the Bible and learning to pray with persistence so that we can overcome the wiles of the flesh and the adversary of our souls. We also need to respond to the patience He places in our hearts by trusting Him with all the details of the world with live in, and by believing in the final victory of His coming kingdom.

May the L-rd teach us to be urgent in the choices we make and patient in the circumstances of our lives, as we learn to soar and be renewed, which is the only real and final sense He wants us to try and make out of this life:

"And it is because of this that I am suffering the way I am, but I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed and am fully persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him until that day." 2 Tim. 1:12

Let's pray