

Impatience Is a Robber

by Milton Haney

Impatience is a subtle plan of Satan that can lead to a lack of faith in God, weak faith in others and ourselves, and a weakened spirit, ultimately leading to moral bankruptcy.

Scripture: Proverbs 14:29, 1 Corinthians 13:4, Galatians 5:22, Colossians 3:12, James 1:19

Topics: "Spiritual Growth", "Faith Development"

Description

Milton Haney delivers a powerful sermon on the dangers of impatience, highlighting how it can lead to a light view of wrongdoing and distance us from God. He emphasizes the importance of studying our failures in the light of the Holy Spirit to recognize their true nature and impact on our lives. Haney warns that impatience can disrupt homes, destroy relationships, and weaken faith in God and ourselves, ultimately robbing us of happiness and spiritual growth.

Transcript

To dwell upon our failures is not a pleasant exercise, but their study in the light of the Holy Spirit, is needed to make them hateful to us. Among the most subtle of Satan's plans is to lead to a light estimate of wrongdoing. There has not been a period in ten centuries when sin has been made to appear so innocent and lamb-like, as in this generation. Sin has become so trivial an affair, that tens of thousands are doubting whether there is, or ever has been any such thing. The same power which leads to the denial of a personal God will easily thereby take away all the barriers between virtue and vice. An impersonal God, could not know if anything were either right or wrong! How can a "thing" discern the moral quality of action, much less be able to condemn or approve?

To distinguish whether impatience is a sin, or nervous spasm, is not always an easy matter; and when sinful, there is an eminent tendency in the sinner, to excuse himself for its indulgence! But the study of its character and consequences will reveal the danger to holy people of its indulgence, even in its milder forms. Patience is one of the fruits of the Spirit and impatience is its opposite, as hatred is the opposite of love. If the one be right and of God, the other must be wrong.

There are practical ways of seeing its wrongness. When impatient, we always find it difficult to see God. Test it, brother or sister, for yourself. When you are yielding to impatience, even when sorely tried, go into your closet and you will find He is not nigh. He is displeased that you are not standing the test, and it grieves Him; so you call upon Him and He does not answer now. He is not grieved about your trial; that he intended to be of much value to you, but your impatience is robbing you of the blessing He had in it, for

you.

Impatience is a great robber. It is the chief disturber in the home. Really, if it were wholly left out, nine homes out of ten, would have greatly increased happiness. What husband do you know, the happiness of whose wife would not be increased, were he never impatient with her? Where is the wife who would not be much more to her husband if her patience were perfected?

We have known wicked husbands saved from sin and hell by the unmixed patience of their wives, but how many ten thousands have been ruined by their impatience? To live with an impatient, complaining, fretful husband is a horror to think about; and an impatient, whining,

chafing, nagging wife is capable of turning a palace into a den of scorpions! How many homes, which were once the producers of peace and rest and love, have been wrecked by these monsters!

1. Impatience, though small in its beginnings, often begets the divorce devil in its culmination. Do you say, "my wife becomes worthless and untrue." What made her so? When you found her she was a beautiful, true, loving and lovable girl. Do you say, "my husband became a worthless drunkard." Who made him a drunkard? Do you answer the saloon? Who and what put him in reach of the saloon? When you found him, the saloon could not get near him, nor had he a thought of going there! What led to his going? It may have been calamities in business, or outward agencies combined; in spite of the best home attractions and moral force of a loving, patient wife. Yet keep in mind, that such attraction, and such moral force, may be made a tremendous power.

A good minister has suddenly and fearfully fallen, and all good people mourn that he came in contact with the great temptation and suddenly went down. That temptation was not the cause of his falling, but many things which lay behind it. It is true the devil entered into Judas Iscariot, but what had been occurring with poor Judas for many days preceding that dreadful night?

The fall of human beings is rarely traced to its real source. A wife proves untrue to her husband and is driven from society. Yes, she has gone down, and her husband is exalted. But what does God see in the days, or years preceding that fearful hour; in the life of that husband, which has brought it about? There is a day coming when the hidden things of darkness will be brought to light. Millions of people have been brought to great wickedness and the overthrow of hope, whose wickedness and overthrow would never have been, had they not been worn out with the impatience of others, or their own.

2. Manifest impatience between husbands and wives never fails to be transmitted to their children. A fretful father will spoil the tempers of a dozen boys. A scolding mother will often send her rattle through four generations! The mother who lives on sour grapes will set her children's teeth on edge! Who can tell the horrors, the years of restlessness, the heartaches, the drunkenness, the adulterers and murders which will be the outflow of the life of one impatient, fretful, scolding wife and mother?

3. Impatience produces an uncharitable spirit. Impatience indulged toward any human being, will bring the most uncharitable judgments concerning him. It is difficult for any impatient person to avoid uncharitable conceptions of the whole human race. If there were no other reasons against its indulgence than the vile, uncharitable conceptions it gives to its possessor of his fellow beings, that alone should compel us to flee from it as from a deadly serpent.

4. It is a squelcher of love, to both God and man. The voice of love is never heard speaking, while the soul is filled with an impatient spirit. Two of the most intense lovers, while under the power of this spirit, will be without love for each other! Even a passionate, loving mother, when ruled by it, cannot press her child to her breast, or kiss her baby! Many a precious mother has fretted over her children till the standard of her love for them was so permanently lowered toward them that she never regained it. The love between ten thousand husbands and wives has been simply fretted to death! Love thus killed can hardly live again!

Who, while ruled by an impatient spirit, ever looked up to God, and said from the heart: "Thou knowest all things, Thou knowest that I love Thee?" "Whom have I in heaven but Thee and who upon earth do I desire beside Thee?" No, that and this do not go together!

5. Impatience lays the ax at the root of the tree of all happiness. An impatient spirit is essentially an unhappy spirit. It is a spoiler of happy conditions. You cannot connect it with happiness. A fretting, impatient, angry soul can never be happy again after it has had a spell, unless it secures supplies from outside itself, for the devilish thing within has destroyed it. How good God is, to ever return to His temple after you have thus defied it, and driven Him out!!

6. Impatience is a great weakener of faith. It tends to destroy faith in yourself. Scarcely anything else is such a generator of discouragement. While under its influence, the black side of everything appears, and you depreciate your own powers, and distrust your own abilities. It weakens faith in others. A well fed impatience will lead you to distrust the whole human race. If you will but continue in it you will reach a point where you cannot find a good neighbor, or true friend.

7. It weakens faith in God, and is among Satan's best resources to cut your soul off from Divine communion. There may be spurts of faith between spells, with a weak soul; but a stalwart faith seems impossible with an impatient child of God. Patience is a great faith inspirer, impatience the mother of doubt.

8. Impatience strikes a death blow to all the graces of the Holy Spirit. Not one of them can remain intact in an impatient soul. They may not be at once destroyed, but each will be mixed and weakened when impatience asserts its sway. It comes from one world, they from another world, and are essentially antagonistic. If they reign, it cannot; if it reigns, they cannot. It is only a question of time as to which will rule the soul forever. To yield, therefore, to impatience, is to encourage Satanic assault on all the spirit's graces; and if persisted in, will strip your soul of all that is beautiful within, and leave it in moral bankruptcy!

How manifest the infinite value of the sin atoning, all cleansing blood of the Lamb!

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