**Small Group Questions : Sunday 20 Feb Patience**

**Opener**

Recall people you remember as being patient, either famously or just known to you? How was that quality demonstrated? – what contributed to it?

**Giving thanks**

Use the verses below as an opportunity to remember God’s love for us and offer thanks of praise – perhaps chose a song to help you in worship:

1 Cor 13 v 4-7, Luke 22 v 39-44, Luke 23 v 34, I Tim 1 v 16, 2 Peter 3 v 9

**Consideration**

Think about an ongoing situation requiring your patience – are you willing to share that with the group for prayer later in your meeting

**Questions**

Do you agree that perseverance is part of life?

Can you think of occasions when you really had to persevere with something?

What did that teach you about yourself?

What did that teach you about God?

Peterson writes ; Obedience is not a stodgy plodding in in the ruts of religion - it is a hopeful race towards God’s promises.

Page 125 Perseverence is not resignation, putting up with things they way they are, staying in the same rut year after year or being a doormat for people to wipe their feet on. Endurance is not a desperate hanging on but a traveling from strength to strength. There is nothing fatigued or humdrum in Isaiah or Paul, nothing flatfooted in Jesus . Perseverance is triumphant and alive”

Do we agree?

How do James and Paul describe the purpose of perseverance – read James 1 v 2-4 and Romans 5 v3

How has that or might it encourage us?

Read 2 Thess 3 v 5 what does that mean for us – how can we help each other in applying that?

How might God use our current experiences to learn about him – that our perseverance may be triumphant and alive?

Read Psalm 129

What were the Israelites celebrating as they chanted the psalm en route to Jerusalem?

What did the Israelites do to change the situation in verses 1 and 2. Ans nothing- they just waited on God. What does waiting teach the psalmist about himself? What has waiting taught us about ourselves and about God?

Peterson writes:

*The central reality for Christians is the personal, unalterable, persevering commitment God makes to us.*

*Perseverance is not the result of our determination – it is the result of God’s faithfulness. We survive in the faith not because we have extraordinary stamina but because God is righteous, God sticks with us*

Take time to discuss and remind ourselves of God’s promises : Deut 31 v 6, Mthw 28 v 30, 2 Tim 2 v 11-13

*Christian discipleship is a process of paying more and more attention to God’s righteousness and less and less attention to our own – finding the meaning in our lives not by probing our own moods and motives and morals but by believing in God’s will and purposes, making a map of the faithfulness of God, not charting the rise and fall of our enthusiasms. It is out of such a reality that we acquire perseverance*

Can we resolve to do that?

**Prayer for one another**

Share areas where perseverance is necessary and pray using Hebrews 12 v 1 to assist.

May ouir faithful and ever present God encourage us as we meet together

Colin

Feb 22