

December 2013 From the Desk of Rev. Chuck

Unity Church of Bakersfield 1619 E Street, Bakersfield CA 93301

www.ucob.org Church: 661-327-8614

Dear Friends,

The air is filled with the energy of expectation and excitement. As I travel around town it seems that this energy is emanating like tiny bubbles from every child I see. Even several of the teens I know show very little patience as they anticipate something they are looking forward to at Christmas time. As adults I would like to think we have mastered the art of patience, of being able to trust the process that everything will unfold in the right and perfect time. To know without a doubt that God is in charge.

Several years ago Russell Smith wrote an article for Unity Magazine, Why Is the Answer Delayed?. In that article he stated:

"Who of us, have not heard these words spoken, either by ourselves or from someone we know, 'I've been reading and studying Truth for a number of years now. I have done my best to apply all the Truth principles I know. Yet I seem to be going backward. The harder I try and the more diligently I pray, the further I seem to get from my goals. I need help and I need it now. Why is my answer so long in coming?"

He went on to explain that "life is an unfolding process. With the glorious gifts of faith and hope, implanted in us by our Creator, we are able to visualize a more fulfilling life, sometimes long before we are able to realize that life. It is a spiritual process of unfoldment that appears to us in stages. Just as a rosebush must patiently await the appearance of the bud and the bud must patiently await it full flowering, so also must we patiently abide with our growing, developing desire for fulfillment, even as the fulfillment itself works its way into realization."

There was an old saying I heard many times while growing up, "Just wait, Chuck. You can't jump out of the frying pan and into the fire." Every time I wanted something to happen now I would get anxious and that would lead to trouble. I had a hard time waiting. Now that I'm older and hopefully wiser I have come to realize that impatience is based on the

activity of fear. The fear of not getting what you need or want when you need or want it.

One of the most challenging of all calls coming into the prayer room at Silent Unity was the call of desperation. The caller had waited to do anything about their problem until it was too late and then they called to have it "fixed" by God right now. Although the calls came from all over the world by hundreds of different people, the one obstacle they all had in common was their impatience with God.

On the side of the filling cabinet in my home office is this sticker that proclaims: *God's delays are not God's denials*. It serves as a reminder for me that patience is the key for all manifestations in my life. As many of you know I have several surrogate daughters who are in the process of becoming mothers. All four of them are filled with excitement and expectation at the thought of entering into motherhood. Each one of them in their own way has said, "I want this baby out now!" And we all know it doesn't happen that way. As much as they want the process of creating life to "hurry up" it has its own time and season.

As these words from Eccl.3:1tell us, "To everything there is a season..." and from our Master Teacher, this parable in Luke 8:15, And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Timing is everything! What we don't realize is that it's God's time and not ours. We count hours, days, weeks, months, and years for our own purpose. How many times have we been so sure of something that we charged ahead with it, not wanting to wait just a little while longer, to allow a small amount of patience to have it place in the process of becoming? I don't know about you, but if I had a dollar for every time I heard the words, "If I had only waited." I'd be very rich today.

As we enter into the Christmas season, to experience and express the re-birth of the Christ consciousness in our lives, let us remember the this birth also took nine months. That nothing could hurry it along. That there was a divine timing, a season under heaven. Patience implies a lapse of time in the unfoldment process. If a goal is worth any effort at all, it should be worth the effort of patience.

It is my prayer that each and everyone of you experience the gift that patience can bring to your life and affairs. Merry Christmas!