



## Patience Carries a lot of Wait

"I'm late! I'm late! For a very important date! No time to say, Hello, Goodbye. I'm late! I'm late! I'm late!" said the Rabbit ("Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," by Lewis Carroll). Have you ever wondered where a rabbit of all creatures could possibly be going that was so urgently important?

More importantly, where exactly are we going that is so all fired important? It must be someplace of the greatest significance for us to be scurrying about the way the rabbit did. All day. Every day. Why, we rush around as if the world would come crashing in around our ears if we didn't get to the next task, and the next, and the next... ad infinitum<sup>1</sup>.

I had a friend challenge me in this way regarding a business matter, "Dave, are you diligent or driven?" A little of both I suppose. You see patience is not one of my virtues when it comes to business matters. In the one of the positions I held there were very demanding expectations placed on me from both our corporate office and our customers. Yes, especially customers. You know the ones I'm referring to ~ "We want the best product at the lowest price. And we want it yesterday." As consumers we have become increasingly demanding and for me, wanting to be the heroic go2guy for everything I found myself scurrying about like our friend Mr. Rabbit from the story above.

Believe me when I tell you that this kind of lifestyle can create gargantuan levels of anxiety for both you and your family. What compels us to be so driven? I can only speak for myself when I say that pride is near the top of the list followed soon after by greed and then perhaps just a smidge of control in the whole mix for flavor. In this world there is nothing quite as tasty and tempting as success. A local church marquee displays short messages one of which read, "The problem with self-made men is that they tend to worship their creator." ~ Ouch!

I have tried very hard over the last 3 ½ years to slow it down some. I have learned to enjoy the gifts that God has given me, my wife, my children (who are now all but grown) and even something as simple as a sunset. Am I still driven? I would have to defer to a loved one for an honest answer for that question. Am I still diligent? To be frank I don't think I am as diligent as I should be in the business arena though I've still managed to turn some people off through my sense of urgency in those matters.

Joel Osteen, the pastor of Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas said that is precisely why men do not conceive and then carry the young of our species. We'd want the entire

process to be done in one day and there's no way we could wait the full 9 months for the completion of the miracle.

How about you? What areas of your life could be enhanced by working on your patience skills? Remember this friends...

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ~ Philipians 4:6,7 NIV*

**May we learn the difference between "driven" and "diligent" Lord. And may we seek that peace that surpasses all understanding through you!**

<sup>1</sup> ad infinitum ~ To infinity, having no end.