

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time
Patiently Trusting in God
Isaiah 26:1-21

We all know that patience is a virtue, one for which we reluctantly pray because we know that virtues are strengthened in us as we are forced to exercise them. We know that the fruit of the Spirit is patience, and we know that love is patient, and yet, we still find it difficult to exercise patience, especially when we are faced with a particular hardship or crisis.

1. We can trust God with our protection.

2. We can trust God with our lamentations.

3. We can trust God with our resurrection.

The cross of Christ enables us to chase after the things that stir our affections for Christ, and we flee from the things that rob us of those affections. As we develop a dependence on Jesus, trials will come and go, and we will come out stronger on the other side of each and every one of them. If we allow worry and anxiety to divert our minds from Christ we will have the peace of God, but we will not experience the peace of God. Jesus said in John 16:33, "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Reflection

How does Isaiah balance a realistic and yet encouraging outlook on the suffering and the sustaining grace God's people will experience in this world? What does verse 3 look like lived out in the life of a believer? Consider where your mind wanders when things get difficult. Consider the object of your trust when life becomes uncertain. Are there things that need to change in your thoughts or in your actions for you to be able to completely and patiently trust God in difficult circumstances? What does verse 10 say about non-believers and their inability to discern the things of God? What should that mean for us as we seek to take the gospel to people who cannot discern the things of God? What practical advice do verses 20-21 give to the persecuted church in the world?