



Today's Lesson

## **Challenges, Changes, & Trusting**

Power Point notes available at:  
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## **Challenges, Changes, & Trusting**

I would like to share a true about a young boy who had a challenge and trusted his inner guidance:

A boy had fallen while coming home from school and skinned his left knee. It was really no more than a scratch, in fact he didn't even rip his trousers. But by nighttime, his knee started to ache. Being thirteen years of age and the sturdy son of a farmer he ignored it. When he awoke the next morning his leg was very painful, but he still didn't tell anyone. The farm kept the whole family busy. He was up before six in the morning to do his chores before school.

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All the children in the family had to be through with their chores or they would be sent back to do them over, no matter what they had to miss--including meals. It took the boy a little longer to complete his chores because of the pain in his leg, but he finished in time for school.

However, on Sunday, the leg ached too badly for him to drag himself out of bed. So the rest of the family to town. He had finished his school homework, so he sat down in bed and dozed off until his family returned from town.

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By the time dinner came along, he couldn't even go downstairs, all he wanted to do was stay in bed. His brother, Ed told their mother, she wanted to know why he hadn't told anyone? His foot was so swollen that shoe had to be cut off.

"Quick, go fetch the doctor!", said his mother. She bathed the knee and foot and wiped the boy's sweating forehead. Confronted with this angry infection, her manner remained serene and patient.

Old Doctor Conklin came in and examined the leg and said, "It's not likely that we can save it."

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The boy sat up stiffly and said, "What does that mean?"

"It means," explained the doctor gently, "that if things get worse we're going to have to amputate the leg."

"Not me," stormed the boy. "I won't have it. I would rather die than have my leg amputated."

"Well, the longer we wait, the more we're going to have to cut off," urged the doctor.

"You won't take any of my leg off," the boy said as his voice broke with a crack of determination.

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The doctor stormed out, nodding the mother to follow him. As he stood in the hallway, explaining to both parents about what could probably would happen, they could hear the boy calling for his bother Ed.

"Ed, come up here, please." As Ed entered his brother's room everyone in the hallway could hear his brother's request, "If I go out of my head, Ed, don't let them cut off my leg. Promise me, Ed. Promise."

In the next moment, Ed came out of the room and stood in front of the doorway with his arms folded.

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Standing guard at the doorway Ed looked straight at the doctor and said, "Nobody is going to saw off that leg." "But, Ed," said the doctor, "you'll be sorry." "Maybe so, doc," said Ed, "but I gave him my word nobody was going to cut off his leg."

The parents, not yet convinced that amputation was necessary, had some doubt, and the adamant attitude first of the sick boy and then of his brother caused the parents to wait a little longer. "Guess we'll wait and see how it looks by tonight, huh, doc?" said the father.

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Well, for two days and two nights, Ed stood guard, sleeping at the threshold. He did not even leave to eat. During this time the fever mounted and the suffering boy babbled in torment. But the older brother showed no weakening of resolve, even though the discoloration of the swollen leg was creeping toward the pelvis, just as the doctor predicted.

By now the entire family shared the same thought. What they needed was a miracle. Each member of the family knelt around the boy's bedside and prayed. They took turns relieving one another with the farm work.

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They kept a constant prayer vigil for the next two days. When the doctor returned to check on the boy, his experienced eye saw a sign. The swelling was going down. When nightfall came, the boy opened his eyes to the soft light of the evening lamps. The swelling was way down and the discoloration had almost faded. In three weeks, pale and still a bit weak, the clear eyed, strong voiced young man could now stand on his own.

Ike Eisenhower was ready to face the rest of his life.

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When faced with this major challenge the parents practiced patience with a strong faith. Had they not had the patience to wait the boy would have had his leg amputated. And the world would never know of the young boy who would become General of Allied forces during WW 2 and then President of the Unity States.

The kind of patience the parents exhibited is the kind of patience that has its foundation in faith and defined as: *An attitude of mind characterized by poise, inner calmness, and quiet endurance, especially in the face of trying conditions.*

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Someone once said, "Patience is not the ability to wait, but how you act while your waiting."

How many people do you know have the patience of a saint to stand in long lines? Can you? The next time you're in the check out line at the grocery store or discount department store look around and see how many people have the patience to wait their turn.

Whenever we pray for patience, what we are really praying for is tolerance for those things we really don't like in our lives, and/or for one reason or another we don't want to deal with.

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Applying patience in our life and affairs requires that we try to embrace three aspects of the process.

They are: Challenge, Change, and Trust.

## Challenges, Changes, & Trusting

### 1) The Challenge:

Have you ever noticed how patient we can be with others and then at the same time be very impatient with ourselves. So one of the challenges in learning to demonstrate patience in our lives is to be patient with ourselves, with God, and with others. We sometimes forget that God has not finished with us yet. You're continually unfolding, ever regenerating into a new and better person. Be patient, with yourself in this process. After all you are right where you need to be, right here and right now.

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### 2) The Change:

Change is a part of life, of physical and spiritual growth and transformation. Yet, although we know this we don't have a very high tolerance of change, and therefore we have little patience for change. Change is a challenge we are all faced with, no one goes through this life without it. Change happens, it's how we react to it that makes the big differences in our lives. It is here, when change seems to be all around and we don't know what to do that we surrender and trust the activity of God to guide us.

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### 3) The Trust:

Trust is taking one day, one week, one month, at a time and walking in faith that God is with you no matter what. However patience looks like for you, trust is a central element in demonstrating patience in your life. Trust in yourself is paramount in creating patience in your life.

No matter what is going on in your life, nothing will ever get better if you don't trust the process of Spirit revealing to you that which needs to be revealed. And the only way it will be revealed is if you have an open mind.

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As someone once said, "The mind is like a parachute. It functions only when it's open." It is in this open state of being that new ideas can come and help us to develop the kind of patience that will overcome our intolerance to people, places, and things, thus allowing us to demonstrate patience in all things.

