



## Monday Matters

### September 23, 2013

#### **Hurry Up and Give Me Patience**

Lessons of patience are hard for me. Hopefully over the years I have learned some lessons about patience. Reflecting about those moments gives me perspective on how patience is my helper.

I recall those whirlwind mornings, many years ago, when our children were in elementary school. We were all getting ready to get out the door to get to school on time. I remember saying the word "hurry" countless times over breakfast. Getting the boys out of bed in the morning



was sweet and bitter at the same time. They were always so warm and cuddly in the morning, yet so resistant to waking up and getting those boots on the ground. Like most families, we often played hard the night before...games, activities, fun times...making up for the hours we were away from each other. Morning wake-up time always came too early for us. In retrospect, I wish I had had more patience to let those little guys move more at their pace, than mine.

About eight years ago I started to oil paint. It was something I thought about doing many times, but I wasn't sure I could do it...it seemed a deep mystery to me. So one day I decided to try it and not just wonder about it anymore. I signed up for lessons. There are many steps to learning how to oil paint. One of the first steps is to understand color and the color wheel. Then you MUST learn how to mix those colors together to get just the right hue for your intended result. This took most of my time for the first few lessons. There were many aggravating moments when my instructor would say that the color was not just right, and then would question me on how to correct it. Patience was not my portion at this point...all I wanted to do was to PAINT! Slowly the results of mixing colors and getting them to represent what I was painting in an effective way started to make sense. One day, to my surprise, I started to look forward to mixing colors. It became a challenge and I loved it!

## One Day At a Time Sung by Lynda Randle

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## Quote of the Week

" There is no road too long to the man who advances deliberately and without undue haste; there are no honors too distant to the man who prepares himself for them with patience."

~ Jean de la Bruyere ~

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Recently, we moved to a small farm. Now that we had this acreage I thought maybe we could get a horse. I never really ever thought I would seriously pursue this dream, but we did and we got Harley. Then, we thought how much fun it would be to do some trail riding. However, we realized that wasn't possible when there are two riders and one horse. So, yes you guessed it, we bought another horse.

I love to ride, but before you ride you MUST groom your horse and put all the gear on (tack-up) your horse. In my estimation I thought this was such a waste of time. Why couldn't you just tack them up, ride them and then clean them up? I learned quickly from my horse-owner friends that this is a cardinal rule and for the health and well-being of the horse you groom first. So, I reluctantly started to spend time grooming knowing that I had to wait to ride. It took a lot of patience. One day I found myself out in the pasture just grooming with no purpose to ride. It was a pleasure to be around this peaceful animal, who was so grateful for a loving touch...someone to scratch those itchy spots and rub those achy muscles, someone to tell you how beautiful you are and snuggle a little. With time I think I have learned as much about my horses on the ground as in the saddle.

We miss so much of life's pleasure by living at break-neck speed. Maybe I can



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**Fruit of the Spirit - Patience**

see that better now that I have more time. Maybe the opportunities were not so available to "stop and smell the roses" along the way, but I sure wish I would have. We did try to take time and enjoy life, especially with our children, but life got demanding and finding perspective was not always easy. Developing patience is very hard, especially for some folks...like me. When you feel impatient, play it slowly and enjoy the moment of learning. Slow down, find less to do, sit on the porch, read a good book, listen to the birds, watch the leaves flutter in the wind, notice how beautiful the trees are, smell the earth, think about God's amazing blessings...be patient.

By Linda Nelson