

## *Pk's Perspectives ... Spiritual Patience*

It is truly amazing what can be accomplished when small, consistent steps are taken toward a goal. Have you ever made a trip out west to see the Grand Canyon? Standing on the viewing platform at the rim of the canyon is breathtaking. Literally. There really aren't words to describe the view...looking out over the Grand Canyon evokes emotions more than words. But that huge canyon did not appear overnight; the Grand Canyon we see today is the culmination of years of erosion caused by the steady flow of the Colorado River. Centuries ago, when no one was around to notice, the Colorado River was patiently and consistently grinding out a truly grand spectacle.

Have you ever been to Egypt to see the Great Pyramids? Me neither! But the Great Pyramids are also magnificent. The wonder of Internet technology allows me to "view" the pyramids from the comfort of my office! What truly boggles my mind is when I study how the Great Pyramids were constructed. The construction process was painstakingly slow, involved the manual maneuvering of ginormous stone slabs weighing many tons from the quarry to the construction site, and then the stone slabs had to be precisely positioned. The Great Pyramid of Giza took between 20 to 30 years to complete. Again – it is truly amazing what can be accomplished when small, consistent steps are taken toward a goal.

The process of transforming the Cochran by-pass from a two-lane to a four-lane road has begun and serves as a hometown example of how small steps taken toward a goal can eventually accomplish something really nice. If you've traveled the by-pass lately you have surely noticed the uprooted trees, the barrels lining the side of the road, and the erosion fencing that has been erected. It will get more chaotic in the days to come. A bevy of little projects will have to be completed before the finished product appears: dirt has to be removed from some areas; dirt has to be hauled into other areas; some areas have to be allowed time to settle; surveying has to be done; and I've heard rumors of a bridge being built over the railroad tracks. All of these small steps will produce (eventually) a nice four-lane by-pass.

This same principle of small, consistent steps leading to something great or beautiful or powerful applies to the process God uses to grow you and me into spiritually strong and mature disciples. Deciding today to surrender to God's plan for our life does not mean we will wake up tomorrow to find that we suddenly know the entire Bible from memory or that we all of a sudden grasp the deepest truths related to the holiness of God or that we'll start giving God 90% of our income while living off of the remaining 10%. God grows His children one moment, one step, one day, one experience at a time. Every time we respond in obedience to God, we are putting little steps one after the other in the process of becoming what God would have us to be! Disciplining ourselves to be patient with God's process is maybe the greatest challenge we face. We see things in our lives that scream to be addressed or blatant weaknesses that need to be strengthened and the temptation is to run ahead of God to try and do ourselves what we're sure He wants done. This never turns out well...it's like a lump of clay trying to make a beautiful pot of itself rather than trusting the master Potter to complete what He has begun!

The Bible tells us in Philippians 1:6, "I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Trust your Father. He not only knows what He's doing, He is also perfect in His timing! One day you'll be able to look back to where you started your journey with Jesus and marvel at the evidences of grace decorating your life. Cya in Sunday School & Worship, PK.