

- a. To have patience means to apply what you know. Patience is a system of thinking Bible doctrine, a system of concentration, the application of doctrine to experience. In effect, that application says, “As long as I am alive, I have control over my life. I can, by positive volition, execute the protocol plan of God or, by negative volition, be a cosmic believer and be my own worst enemy.”
 - b. The farmer invests by sowing seed. He must break up the soil and sow the seed, then he must wait. There is nothing he can do while waiting; the seed will either come up or not. Either he will have production, or he will not. In the time of this writing, that depended upon the soil and the rains. The farmer did not have control over those elements.
 - c. Verse 8 goes on to tell us how to have patience. You cannot have patience without a stabilized mentality.
 - d. “Drawing nearer” means to be approaching. Every day in the Church Age, the Rapture draws closer. Every day that the Rapture approaches, you still have control over your life as long as you live. You have control in the sense that you can be a winner or a loser.
10. Because there was no unfulfilled prophecy before the Rapture could occur, the early church anticipated the Rapture under the concept of imminency:

1 Corinthians 1:4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,

v. 5 that in everything you were [the culminative aorist passive indicative of the verb, *πλουτίζω* (*ploutízō*)]: enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge,

v. 6 even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,

v. 7 so that you are not lacking in any [spiritual] gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ [Rapture],

v. 8 Who will also confirm you to the end [of the Church Age], blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NASB)

- a. The Corinthian church was made up of losers, yet Paul thanked God concerning them because they were the beneficiaries of phenomenal grace, were in union with Christ, and most of all, were “enriched in Him.”

- b. Each had: a portfolio of invisible assets, his very own palace—the operational divine dynasphere, the indwelling of the Father, Son, and Spirit, and the 100% available divine omnipotence of the Father, Son, and Spirit.
 - c. Enrichment in the Christian life is not measured in terms of work and Christian service, but in terms of doctrine and knowledge. Yet most of the Corinthian believers rejected that doctrine.
 - d. To be “strengthened to the end” refers, not to the end of their lives, but to the end of the Church Age. Since they died before then, what does this mean? Every believer has equal privilege and equal opportunity to execute the protocol plan of God.
 - e. But it cannot be executed in human power, dynamics, energy, works, or personality; it is executed in that knowledge of doctrine and in the omnipotence of God the Father, in the omnipotence of Jesus Christ, and in the omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit.
 - f. The omnipotence of Jesus Christ personally preserves history and perpetuates it, and so guarantees that the Church Age will run its course.
 - g. In a resurrection body, you will be “blameless” forever.
11. While the Rapture is imminent, no one really knows when it will occur. In the meantime, the royal family of God lives in this dispensation of historical trends, Revelation 2–3.
12. Three times in Revelation 22 is the phrase, “I am coming soon”:
- Revelation 22:7** “Behold, I am coming quickly.”
 - Revelation 22:12** “Behold, I am coming quickly ...”
 - Revelation 22:20** “Yes, I am coming quickly.” (NASB)
13. Remember that, to the Lord, a day is a thousand years and a thousand years as a day.³ This statement was written by John in A.D. 95, and this is now A.D. 2023. Therefore, “soon” connotes imminency, not immediacy.
14. The Rapture of the Church is the next prophetic event to occur in history.
- Titus 2:13** ... as we wait for the happy fulfillment of our hope in the glorious appearing [**Rapture**] of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. (NET)

³ Compare 2 Peter 3:8 with Moses in: Psalm 90:4: Do not let this one thing escape your notice, that a single day is like a thousand years with the Lord and a thousand years are like a single day. (see 2 Peter 3:8). For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or as a watch in the night (see Psalm 90:4). (NASB)



- a. How do you wait with keen anticipation? You wait through thinking; you wait with patience, which is the application of doctrine. You know the Rapture is coming. It may not occur in your lifetime, but you still know it is coming. In this way you apply doctrine, are occupied with the person of Jesus Christ, utilize +H, virtue-love, hope 2 and hope 3, so that you have a wonderful life and death.
 - b. *Sic transit gloria mundi*: “Thus passes away the glory of this world” because it is based on the achievement of man, on visible heroes. But we are called to become invisible heroes by advancing to spiritual maturity.
 - c. Jesus Christ is the glory, the resurrection, and the life.
15. The imminency of the Rapture is a doctrine for mature believers only. A mature believer is eager for the Rapture to occur. He is so occupied with Christ that he looks for the Rapture.
16. Only the Trinity knows when the Rapture is going to occur.

D. The Power of Resurrection.

1. The power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is the same power that resurrects each of us at the Rapture or resurrection of the Church.
2. Both the great power experiment of the Hypostatic Union and the great power experiment of the Church Age terminate in resurrection. Our Lord’s resurrection at the end of the great power experiment of the Hypostatic Union was the first resurrection in history.
3. The Rapture of the Church is the first mass resurrection, when all Church Age believers receive their resurrection bodies.
4. Between the first two resurrections in history is the unique Church Age, the time when maximum divine power is available to every believer.

1 Corinthians 6:14 Now God indeed raised the Lord, and He will raise us by His power. (NET)

- a. The omnipotence of God the Father restored our Lord’s human spirit in heaven to His body in the grave and thereby became an agent in the resurrection of the humanity of His body in the grave and thereby became an agent in the resurrection of the humanity of Jesus Christ:

Acts 2:24 “But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.” (NASB)

Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (NASB)

1 Corinthians 6:14 Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

Colossians 2:21 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,

v. 13 “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”

1 Peter 1:20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

v. 21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. (NASB)

- b. The omnipotence of the Holy Spirit restored our Lord’s human soul in Hades to His body in the grave and thereby became an agent in the resurrection of the humanity of Jesus Christ:

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit. (NASB)

- c. Because the great power experiment of the Hypostatic Union has been extended into the Church Age, the power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is now available to every Church Age believer.
5. After His physical death, our Lord’s human spirit went to the third heaven into the presence of God the Father. His human soul went to Hades. His body went into the grave. Three days and nights later, the omnipotence of God the Father restored His human spirit to His body, the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit restored His soul to His body, and He received His resurrection body.
6. The power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is not only the same power that will raise us from the dead, but in addition, it is the power made available to us today.

