

POWER YOU POSSESS

TEXT: (Proverbs 25:15, NCV)

¹⁵ With patience you can convince a ruler, and a gentle word can get through to the hard-headed.

INTRODUCTION

A. The Power of Patience

1. “Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised” (Romans 4:18-21, NIV).
2. “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31, KJV).

B. The Power of Gentle Words—A Soft Approach

1. “Now the Ephraimites asked Gideon, ‘Why have you treated us like this? Why didn’t you call us when you went to fight Midian?’ And they challenged him vigorously” (Judges 8:1, NIV).
2. “But he answered them, ‘What have I accomplished compared to you? Aren’t the gleanings of Ephraim’s grapes better than the full grape harvest of Abiezer? God gave Oreb and Zeeb, the Midianite leaders, into your hands. What was I able to do compared to you?’ At this, their resentment against him subsided” (Judges 8:1-3, NIV).
3. “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Proverbs 15:1, NIV).
4. “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity” (Colossians 3:12-15, NIV).

I. IN THE WORKPLACE

1. “A man’s gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men” (Proverbs 18:16, KJV).
2. “Patient persistence pierces through indifference; gentle speech breaks down rigid defenses” (Proverbs 25:15, MSG).

A. Serving a Difficult Boss

1. “Don’t just do what you have to do to get by, but work heartily, as Christ’s servants doing what God wants you to do. And work with a smile on your face, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, you’re really serving God. Good work will get you good pay from the Master, regardless of whether you are slave or free” (Ephesians 6:6-8, MSG).

2. "With patience you can convince a ruler, and a gentle word can get through to the hard-headed" (Proverbs 25:15, NCV).

B. Influencing Co-workers

1. "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them" (Psalm 119:165, KJV).
2. "Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good" (Romans 12:20-21, MSG).
3. "With patience you can convince a ruler, and a gentle word can get through to the hard-headed" (Proverbs 25:15, NCV).

II. IN YOUR HOME

1. "Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband" (Ephesians 5:33, NIV).

A. The Power to Influence Your Spouse

1. "Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives" (1 Peter 3:1-2, NIV).
2. "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayer" (1 Peter 3:7, NIV).

B. The Power to Shape Your Children

1. "Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4, KJV).
2. "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, NIV).
3. "Fathers, do not nag your children. If you are too hard to please, they may want to stop trying" (Colossians 3:21, NCV).
4. "Patient persistence pierces through indifference; gentle speech breaks down rigid defenses" (Proverbs 25:15, MSG).

C. The Power to Convince Your Parents

1. "Take good counsel and accept correction—that's the way to live wisely and well" (Proverbs 19:20, MSG).
2. "Patient persistence pierces through indifference; gentle speech breaks down rigid defenses" (Proverbs 25:15, MSG).

III. IN YOUR COMMUNITY

A. Daniel Found Himself in a Strange Environment

1. "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13, NIV).

2. "With patience you can convince a ruler, and a gentle word can get through to the hard-headed" (Proverbs 25:15, NCV).

B. Established Secular Friendships

1. "He asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way" (Daniel 1:8, NIV).
2. "Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel" (Daniel 1:9, NIV).
3. "[An overseer] must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap" (I Timothy 3:7, NIV)
4. "Patient persistence pierces through indifference; gentle speech breaks down rigid defenses" (Proverbs 25:15, MSG).

C. Taking the Long View

1. "But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him" (Hebrews 10:38, NIV).
2. "But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved" (Hebrews 10:39, NIV).
3. "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever" (Psalm 23:1-6, NIV).

2. "Patient persistence pierces through indifference; gentle speech breaks down rigid defenses" (Proverbs 25:15, MSG).