

James 1:4

One day, while trying to decide whether to marry a certain young man, I had this verse of scripture pop into my head while driving to work. The thought was simply "James 1:4". I could hardly wait until I could get home that evening and look the scripture up. Funny thing, I couldn't find James! I began to think that there wasn't a James and that what I thought to be inspiration was who knows what! But then, I found that tiny book of scripture.

The verse hit me so strongly - and I knew it was an answer...but didn't know what the answer was still! I just knew it was profound for my life. I didn't end up marrying that young man (guess I needed to have more patience!) But this particular scripture has really stayed with me. I feel it is something Heavenly Father wants me to remember.

(Interestingly - it was the next 2 verses that were so important to Joseph Smith!)

But, decades later, I had an experience in Relief Society that reconfirms the notion of what the spirit is trying to teach me.

We had our ward conference yesterday (2/24/13) and dear Pres Robbins (my former bishop) taught our RS with as much love and compassion as you could even imagine. He must have stopped his lesson 3 times to reach out to someone in the ward - who he just at that moment recognized was in the room and went and hugged, patted a shoulder or whatever was appropriate.

Ok, but that was just him, we all love him dearly....our stake theme is 'deepening our conversion' and we talked and learned of how important conversion is and how we can deepen it. They had cards prepared with pictures of deeply converted BofM characters, and lists of topics and items on the back: topics like Faith, hope, Charity and Love, Virtue, Knowledge, Patience, Humility, Diligence & Obedience and then each topic had items underneath: under Faith things like 1) I believe in Christ and accept Him as my Savior 2) I feel confident that God loves me. Or under Knowledge 1) I will study the scriptures daily. I think all of these things came from Preach My Gospel - and there were probably 40 items in total.

He challenged us to turn the card over and choose one (he was adamant that we not choose 7 as he knew we would be tempted to do!) but only one. Pick one thing and and only one thing and work on that until you have it down. (Some of these are a life long process for sure! At least for me!). I turned the card over -- expecting and planning to choose something in regards to temples or scriptures. That was my plan. But my eye fell on one item -- and I couldn't look away -- couldn't! It said (under patience) I wait patiently for the blessings and promises of the Lord to be fulfilled. (2Ne 10:17). I was stunned with how applicable that felt, as well as the sense that I might be waiting a long while (only it didn't feel discouraging at that point). Now, without the spirit comforting me, that's a little more discouraging :) But, it is telling....isn't it! I'm

guessing I need to work on my faith (well it came under patience, but I think patience and faith intermingle very closely in that regard!)