Hurry Up & Be Patient!



**#1**

**Pirkei Avos 1:1**

*… Be deliberate (patient and restraint) in judgment ...*

**Pirkei Avos 2:6**

*… an impatient one cannot teach ...*

**Questions:**

**(a) How long would you wait in a doctor’s office if your appointment was for 1PM and 2:30PM is quickly approaching?**

**(b) How long do you wait on hold to speak to a customer service representative before hanging up?**

**(c) How do you feel when stuck in traffic for an hour?**

**(d) How do you feel when your internet server is too slow?**

**(e) When is it hardest to wait?
(f) When do you become frustrated?**

**#2**

**Heshbon HaNefesh (An Accounting of the Soul)**

*Woe to the pampered man [or woman] who has never been trained to be patient. Either today or in the future, he is destined to sip from the cup of affliction.*

**Questions:**

**(a) Did you ever undertake to learn a new skill – like a foreign language or musical instrument – and then quit?**

**(b) What was the reason for giving up on acquiring a new skill or continuing a project?**

**#3**

**Question: What is the root of impatience?**

**#4**

**Talmud Shabbos 88a**

*A heretic saw Rava engrossed in learning; Rava's fingers were under his leg, he was pressing on them without realizing, they were bleeding.
He said: You are a hasty nation! You put your mouths before your ears, and you persist in your haste! You should have heard the Mitzvos first - then, you can accept if you see that you can keep them!*

(The heretic was referring to the impatience of Israel at Mount Sinai when they accepted the Torah unconditionally without waiting to hear all of the details of the Law from G-d.)

**Questions:**

**(a) What are the advantages/disadvantages of being patient?**

**(b) What are the advantages/disadvantages of being impatient?**

**(c) Doesn't being patient makes you into a passive, unambitious person?**

**#5**

**Midrash Rabbah - Bereishis 3:7**

*Rabbi Judah son of Rabbi Simon said: "'Let there be evening' is not written here, but 'And there was evening'; hence we know that a time-order existed before this." Rabbi Abahu said: "This proves that the Holy One, blessed be He, went on creating worlds and destroying them until He created this one, and declared, 'This one pleases Me; those did not please Me.'" Rabbi Pinchas said: "This is R. Abahu's reason: 'And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good' (Torah Bereishis 1:31). This pleases Me, but those did not please Me.*

**Question: When can you be objectively sure that it's "not worth it" and it makes sense to not continue a project you started, and it is not a sign of impatience?**

**#6**

**Pirkei Avos 6:6**

*… the Torah is acquired with 48 ways. These are: … #20 slowness to anger ...*

Patience is one of the thirteen attributes of G-d listed in the Torah:

**Torah, Shmos 34:6**

*… Lord, Lord, benevolent G-d, Who is compassionate and gracious, patient (slow to anger) and abundant in loving kindness and truth.*

The word in Torah for patience is *Erech Apayim* , literally slow to anger.

**Questions:**

**(a) Why is patience described as “slow to anger”? The opposite of patience must be “quick to anger”. Is it the same as impatience?**

**(b) How can we cultivate patience?**

**#7**

**Question: What’s your takeaway from today’s discussion?**