

Dealing with God's Delay

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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None of us likes delays. Having been so accustomed to instant everything, delays are perceived as inconvenient and, more often than not, a source of irritation. However, when God delays He has a purpose.

One of the hardest things to do in life is to wait on God. We must keep in mind that how we deal with God's delay is important in receiving His blessings.

How do we deal with the delays that God allows in our lives?

First, understand that God has a plan for us and He has all the details already figured out (Jer. 29:11). Instead of focusing on our sorrows, temporary setbacks, and momentary depressions as we wait for God's plan to happen, we must bear in mind that all things work together for the good of those who love Him (Rom. 8:28).

One of the greatest tragedies of life is to lose focus on God and His plan for our lives simply because we refuse to wait on Him.

Second, do not give up on prayer because of impatience. When God delays, it does not mean it is already hopeless. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise. Instead He is patient with us, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Pt. 3:8-9).

It is when we wait for God that we will see things we have not seen and learn things we would not have learned if we did not wait.

4 Reasons Why God Delays

1. His ways are not our ways (Is. 55:8-9).
2. God delays so we can demonstrate our faith.
 - God delays because He wants to test our faith.
 - In Mt. 14:22-25, the Lord tested the faith of His Apostles by delaying His coming. He only came to their boat when it was already

a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

3. God delays so He can bless our waiting.
 - The greatest blessings in life are the ones that we have been praying over for years.
4. God delays so that He can be glorified in the end.
 - God delays because if we get everything in an instant, it will seem like everything we get from Him is ordinary. As a result, He would not be glorified.
 - Let us always let God be glorified in everything that we do.
 - An example of delay in the Bible is the story of Joseph the Dreamer. God's plan for Joseph was to be in Egypt so he can interpret the dream of the Pharaoh and save many lives. That dream happened after 13 years.

Effects of Delay

1. We get frustrated (bigong) and upset (masama ang loob).
 - A lot of people were frustrated and upset when the extension of Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) by two weeks was announced.
2. We get fidgety (balisa).
 - As the quarantine's lifting is delayed further, a lot of people are nervous and afraid for they might contract Coronavirus.
3. We become impatient (walang tiyaga).
 - We get impatient and leave the place where God told us to be. Instead, we should stop and look at what God has for us right where we are.
 - God promised Abraham that he would have children. God fulfilled His promise 25 years later.
4. We take matters into our own hands.
 - When Sarah became impatient, she made Hagar, her handmaid, sleep with Abraham so that she can bear a child for them.
 - Sometimes, like Sarah, we grow impatient and take matters into our own hands. When we are asked to wait by God, we must obey.

5. We get mad (galit) for we are not moving forward at the pace we would like to be moving.
6. We get tired of looking at the same thing over and over again.
7. We begin to murmur and complain.
 - Stop murmuring and complaining because God wants us to be satisfied.
 - Remember what happened to the Israelites. Instead of reaching the Promised Land in 11 days, it took them 40 years because they murmured and complained (Dt. 1:2).
8. We get tired.
 - When God allows delay, we grow tired and replace Him with money, fame, etc. This is exactly what the Israelites did when they grew tired of waiting for Moses to come back from Mt. Sinai and worshipped the golden calf that they made.
9. We begin to find fault in everything.
 - As the Israelites' arrival to the Promised Land was delayed, they complained about the hardship and began to find fault in everything and everyone, including Moses.
 - Do everything without complaining (Phil. 2:14).

We must learn to wait for we will be blessed when we do. Wait because it is not our time but the time of God.

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