

How We Handle Delay Determines the Blessings We are to Receive

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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Delayed answers to our prayers can be agonizing, but we must keep on praying. As we do, He will give us wisdom to understand why He has not answered our prayers yet.

Remember:

- If the request is wrong, God says, "No."
- If the timing is wrong, God says, "Wait."
- If the request and timing are right, God says, "Go!"

Usually, we want God to answer all our prayers instantly, but sometimes He answers through delay.

Delay does not mean, "No!" As we wait, we need to learn how to be steadfast like Abraham, who despite waiting for years, hoped in God (Rom. 4:18-21).

The Story of Jairus (Mk. 5:22-43)

- On v. 22-23, we meet Jairus, who pleaded to the Lord for his daughter's life.
- On v. 24, we see Jesus saying "yes" to his request.
- On v. 25-34, we witness Jesus being delayed by the crowd and the hemorrhaging woman He healed along the way.
- On v. 35, we hear about the death of his daughter.
- On v. 36-43, we witness Jesus bringing Jairus' daughter back to life.

Jairus' traits worthy to emulate to receive God's blessings:

1. He came to Jesus (v. 22-23).
2. He showed great faith born out of deep need.
3. He sought Jesus by praying fervently.
4. He cast aside his pride.
 - Desperate to save the life of his dying daughter, even though he was a synagogue leader, he fell on his face at Jesus' feet.
5. He had unwavering faith.

- He did not lose faith even though the crowd pressing in on them and Jesus' healing the hemorrhaging woman delayed them from reaching his dying daughter.
 - His faith did not waver even after hearing that his daughter died already.
 - **Reflection:** Had you been in Jairus' shoes, how would have you reacted? Would you blame Jesus, the hemorrhaging woman, or the crowd?
6. He was patient.
 - He never complained when the crowd pressed in on them and the hemorrhaging woman turned up. He remained patient even after hearing his daughter's death. He did not walk away or got mad at Jesus, the woman, or the crowd.
 - There are times God delays His answers for we need to develop patience (Heb. 10:36).
 7. He was steadfast and unmovable.
 - Though he remembered his daughter, he did not fret that Jesus was not moving toward his house fast enough. As his reward, he saw God's glory.
 - Delayed answers to prayers make us steadfast like him. The more we wait on God, the firmer our faith in Him will be.
 8. He trusted God.
 - After hearing about his daughter's death, he trusted Jesus when He told him to do so.
 - Never stop trusting God. Overcome fear with faith that God knows what is best.
 9. He obeyed God's Word (v. 36).
 - Obey God's Word and whatever we ask, shall be done for us (Jn. 15:7).

If Jairus left when Jesus was dealing with the woman, he would have missed out on God's blessings. People who easily give up would not grow in faith. They would never become rooted for they do not know how to wait on the Lord.

Jesus is a promise keeper. We should stand firm on all of His promises. Those who have the proper response to delay will always receive God's blessings.

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