

When God Seems Late

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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Waiting is allowing time to go by until something we expect happens. As human beings, we find waiting a difficult thing to do. We are in an age where everything is instant. As we move forward in life, we all face a season of waiting. We know that God can do something in our situation, yet He does not always do what we think He needs to do. Sometimes, God seems late that we get ourselves stuck in the waiting room of life. However, the waiting season is never a wasted season - not with God.

Reading: The Death of Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-44)

When we are in a season of uncertainty, we need something concrete and definite.

3 Things to put to heart that will get us through our waiting period:

1. God's delays are not necessarily God's denial.

- God's delay does not mean that He is not going to do something. God always answers. At times, He gives us a 'yes.' other times, He says 'no.' And sometimes, He tells us to wait.
- Jesus knew what was going on. He knew what he was doing (Jn. 11:4). When we are in a waiting period, God is still in control; and everything He does has a purpose.

1.1. Waiting is not a denial of God's Love.

- Jesus loved Martha, her sister Mary, and Lazarus (Jn. 11:5). Keep in mind that even when God allows us to keep on waiting, He loves and cares for us.
- God's delay is confusing when it is said in the scripture that He is our ever-present help (Ps. 46:1). This is called the divine delay, which happens when God wants to change us before He does something for us.

1.2. Transformation happens in the waiting room.

- While we are waiting, God gives us patience. He lets us press onto Him not to pressure ourselves. He teaches us to walk by faith and

not by sight. He also teaches us to trust His higher ways.

1.3. When God says 'no' to us, that is not the outcome.

- The scripture tells us to be glad when we experience various troubles (Jm. 1:2); not because of the difficulties they bring us, but because of what they can do to us.

2. If God always met our expectations, He'd never have the opportunity to exceed them.

- People were expecting a miracle, but Jesus planned a resurrection. He wanted to exceed their expectations.
- God can move any barrier for us to experience miracles. Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" (Jn. 11:40).

3. Waiting periods can become the setting for God's greatest miracles.

- In waiting, let us put our hope in the Lord (Ps. 130:5). Let us believe that God is going to fulfill His promises to us.
- The waiting season is just a stepping stone for God to bring out His greatest miracles in our lives.

Let us stop looking at our time table because when God seems late, He is just right on time.

Reflection:

1. Have you ever hoped for something that made you wait for a long time? Have you ever gotten a 'no' as an answer from God?
2. What do we do in moments when we feel like Jesus failed us?
3. Even now, can you still trust the Lord and believe that He's doing something?

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