

# “Why Wait?”

## (Incomplete Obedience Part 3)

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### THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

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Most of the time, Christians struggle to wait for God's answers to prayers; we tend to feel rejected and unloved while waiting for God's response. However, we need to be assured that God always loves us, although His response might be yes, no, or wait. Moreover, trustingly waiting for the Lord will help us to become mature Christians who are worthy of His purpose.

**1. Active waiting produces the fruit of patience.** Patience is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. In doing God's work, our patience will be tested. As we walk with God, there will be instances when our plans will be delayed; but this is the moment that God will test our Christian character.

**2. Learning to wait on God:** In John 11:1-15, Lazarus, who Jesus loved, was very ill. Though Jesus knew the predicament of Lazarus, He did not rush to him; instead, He went days after the latter's death. This incident provides the evidence of God's power and glory when He brought Lazarus back to life.

**2.1 Jesus declares, “I am the resurrection and the life...”** His declaration assures us that we can trust our lives to him while we wait in prayer (John 11:25).

**2.2 Jesus' prayer of thanksgiving** (John 11:41-42). His prayer starts with thanking His Father for hearing His prayer. When we pray to God, we must begin with thanksgiving as a sign of trust in His wisdom in answering our prayer. We trust that all will be for our good and His glory.

**2.3 Jesus asks us to remove our stones of doubt to receive his answer.** In John 11:43, Jesus asked the crowd to remove the stone cover before the miracle.

**2.4 Jesus tested the patience of His friends.** He made Mary and Martha wait; they were bothered by the delay, but in the end, they witnessed the power of Jesus over death.

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Indeed, all of us who love Jesus Christ will have a test of patience. Sometimes, God lets us wait and surprises us with His answers in various ways.

**3. How do we learn to discipline ourselves in waiting for the Lord?**

**3.1** Our human nature tends to be restless during times of delay. However, we can develop certain attributes to have the discipline to wait for God.

**3.2** Patience is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. It is the ability or willingness to suppress restlessness or annoyance when confronted with delay. It is self-control that nurtures joy and peace in waiting.

#### Conclusion:

Christians pray to an eternal God. He is the creator and timekeeper of everything. Our lives as Christians need to be developed especially in dealing with delays and waiting. Mary said “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Jesus later said, “did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” Our Lord asks us to wait for His answer.

#### Reflection:

1. How are you dealing with delays in your plans?
2. What are your ways to keep your patience in check?
3. Why do you think God keeps some of your prayers unanswered?

#### Prayer:

*“Lord, I thank You that You will answer my prayer in Your perfect time. Reveal what is in my heart and make me ready to handle the answer rightly when it comes. In Jesus' name. Amen.”*

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Tags: #Patience