



Learning to Wait for the Lord

One of the most difficult lessons we need to learn is to wait on the Lord's timing of circumstances in our lives. Is there something you have been praying for a very long time but it doesn't seem God is hearing or responding? Are you facing a decision and don't know which way to go? We, at JOY, certainly have been praying and waiting for a "home" on our Beltway property.

God told Samuel to anoint young David (probably in his teens) as king of Israel. But it wasn't until he was about 40 years old that it finally happened. And in those waiting years, King Saul hunted David, to kill him, as he escaped to the wilderness and lived in caves with a band of rogues. It is there that David probably wrote Psalm 27, and verse 14: **"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage and He will strengthen you heart."**

Why does God let us wait?

- 1) **Sometimes we are not ready for the next step.** He sometimes stops us in our tracks until we do a little "internal housecleaning". Maybe we have been tolerating a sin in our life that needs to be dealt with. The Lord has places to take us and He knows what baggage needs to be left behind. Maybe He is training us for His calling, keeping us in an uncomfortable place to prepare us for something far better. His plans for us are good.
- 2) **Perhaps all the details of God's will are not yet in place.** God is the master of time and works out all the circumstances of His grand design. No amount of prayer or fasting will move His hand until He is ready.
- 3) **At times the Lord's delays are designed to increase our faith.** If He instantly gave us what we wanted, we wouldn't learn to live by faith.
- 4) **The Lord wants to teach us endurance.** When we endure under pressure and pain, rely on His strength and search for His perspective, we come out of the experience looking a little more like our Savior.
- 5) **Perhaps our attention needs to be refocused on Christ and not on an answer to fix the problem.** If our prayer is only for what we want Him to do for us, we've missed the mark.

Why do we so often go our own way instead of patiently waiting?

- 1) **We live hurried lifestyles.** With noise and activity filling our day from morning to night, we want to jump to get results. Sitting quietly with the Lord takes too much time. Being quiet and still makes us nervous. We prefer to ask Him for guidance in the car on the way to work or while we are exercising. The Bible is our anchor in times of waiting. One of the wisest things we can do is to read the Scriptures every day, asking God to give us passages that will bring stability to our lives. Is your Bible underlined and marked with special verses? Have you written them down and memorized them? Waiting on the Lord is not merely praying, but it is hanging on to a specific word from God that will give us His perspective and promise in our situation.
- 2) **We want it now!** Do you get impatient waiting in line or in traffic? (My 2 year old grandson has learned to say, "Move it, people!") Face it, we demand immediate gratification and it has blinded us to the benefits learning to trust the Lord and rely on His timing.

If we can get to the point where we can patiently wait, believing Him, we can confidently watch for Him to work. He has the power to rearrange any detail to bring about His desired plan. All we have to do is believe Him, trust Him patiently and then watch for His intervention or watch for His direction.