**In God’s Time**

We often find ourselves in situations where we are not happy with what is going on in our lives or in the lives of others around us. When this happens we often want change and being impatient as we are, we want change now! We are so used to having everything we want so quickly. What use to take months now can take minutes or just a few days.

As Christians, we will often address our problems and situations in our Prayers as we ask God to fix everything but become very impatient as we wait for Him to take action.

It is never easy to wait for things to happen but the Bible tells us over and over that we should wait for the Lord

### [Psalm 27:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+27%3A14&version=ESV) Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

### Micah 7:7 But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.

* Psalm 37:7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him…

We often put restrictions on what God can and cannot do based on what we as humans can and cannot do. We tend to forget that God is not restricted by things such as time as we are. We do not know what is going to happen tomorrow nor can we change the past but God can do all things.

We can see this when he told Moses his name was “I Am”. Showing us that he was, is and always will be who he is. He was “I Am” 10,000 years ago and still is “I Am” today and for all eternity.

We also see that time is not an issue for God:

Psalm 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

 2 Peter 3:8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

God has known from the beginning of time how things will happen throughout eternity. This is how God was able to tell the prophets what was going to happen

J. Barton Payne’s Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy lists 1,239 prophecies in the Old Testament and 578 prophecies in the New Testament, for a total of 1,817. These encompass 8,352 verses.

Around 80% of these prophesies have already be fulfilled with amazing accuracy and we are still waiting for the remaining 20% to happen in the future (Revelations)

* **God is in control and that is why he knows what is best for Us**

This can make it very difficult to understand God Sometime. Do we have control over our lives? does prayer help if my life is already planned out?

What you need to remember is God is alive in all times: past, present and future (I AM). So your prayer is as real today as it was 1000 years ago and 1000 years from now. He knew you would pray it. But in the same note God doesn’t always answer our prayers in our time or in the way we think he should.

This is a good thing because God knows how the things we pray for are going to turnout before they ever happen. For example, you might pray God for a certain Job and later that company goes bankrupt.

I think many times we lose faith as we wait and we give up on God. Sometimes this may result in us taking things into our own hands which for me this has always ended up horribly.

We see examples of this in the bible:

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. But when the promise was first given (Genesis 12:1-3) Abraham and his wife Sarah did not have any children. They waited many years and still had no children so Abraham took his wife’s handmaid and had a son named Ishmael that is now believed to be the Father of Islam

King Saul was at war with the Philistines and was told to wait seven days for the Prophet Samuel to come and make a sacrifice to the Lord. But when Samuel did not show up on time He panicked and offered the sacrifice to God himself (which was against God’s command). Because Saul did not follow Gods command: “Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now, the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue.”

If you have been a Christian for very long, you have experienced God’s delays. David experienced them when He wrote, “I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; my eyes fail while I wait for my God” (Ps. 69:3).

* **God uses His delays to teach us to trust Him and to submit to His lordship over our lives.**

In School the teacher will work with you to teach you a subject but when the test comes, you are on your own. The teacher will be silent during the test. At times in your life you are going to experience this silence. You will have to apply all you have learned. Following the Lord is more than just saying the right words.

God says he will never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5), but there will be times when He is silent. During Hezekiah's most prosperous time, God left him for a season to test him, that he might know all that was in his heart. (2 Chronicles 32:31).

Again with the isrealites in Deuteronomy 8:2 Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. (What do you think he found)

If you are trying your best but still going through a silent time in your life, and it seems that God has nothing to say to you, then you are probably going through a test. Hold your head up, think positive, and remember God is with you he just wants to see what is in your heart. don’t worry If you fail God will forgive you and give another chance.

Yogi Berra used to say about baseball games, “It ain’t over till it’s over.” The same is true for our lives. It isn’t over until we meet the Lord in heaven. So even if we’ve yielded our lives totally to Jesus as Lord, there’s always more to yield. God’s delays often expose areas where we need to yield further to Him.

After many days, the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, 'Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth.' 1Kings 18:1

Elijah waited for three years for God to take action. But when the Lord spoke to him it was just a matter of a few hours before he had a showdown with 950 false prophets, caused fire to come down from heaven, executed the false prophets, turned Israel back to the Lord, caused it to rain when it had not for three years, and then outran a chariot back to town. He endured the long wait and was now hanging on for dear life as the Lord went to work.

Don't give up on God during the long wait. When His plan finally comes together it can move very quickly and you can be racing just to stay up with Him. The roller coaster climbs the hill slowly but when God says it is now time, hang on for the ride to come.

* **We need to Stay the course during the storm and wait on God**

In Acts we find Paul, a prisoner, was sailing for Rome when a hurricane came along and was battering the ship to the point that everyone on board, except for Paul had “finally gave up all hope of being saved” (Acts 27:20). In the midst of the Storm Paul stands up and say “keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God” (Acts 27:22)

When we are in the midst of a storm, we need to remember who we put our faith in and stand by it. Many people will quote the 23 Psalm Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me…

As the story goes on the Sailors, In an attempt to escape from the ship, let the lifeboat down into the sea but Paul told the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay with the ship, they will not be saved.” So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it drift away. Acts 27:29-32
Sometimes we need to stay the course that God has laid out for us, brace ourselves and head right into the storm, cutting loose everything that is holding us back.

Paul and these Men would have never fulfilled God's plan in their life if they had not stayed the course. The men finally ended up on the Island of Malta where Paul healed many and then went on to Rome and lead many to Christ. If something is holding you back, and you feel God is wanting you to get rid of it, cut it loose and let it go. Trust Him to take care of you.

Do you Trust God with your future? What if his plans are not the same as yours? What if we have to go through a few storms to get where God is leading us?

# Romans 5:2-5 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Sometimes we just can’t see the big picture

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Our life is like a big jigsaw puzzle scattered all over the table. Day by day we have to try and assemble this Puzzle to find out who we are. Sometimes the enemy throws in pieces that shouldn’t be a part of puzzle. We might pick them up and try fit them in and sometimes it takes a while to realize that they are not a part of our picture that God has laid out for us.

God sees the bigger picture of your life. You do not. He knows the pieces that do not fit and need to be removed, and He knows what to keep. After walking with Him a while, your life will begin to take shape and when complete, it will be something beautiful.

Work with God and allow Him to separate you from the things that do not belong for He will not separate you from your friends, or the things that you want to keep around. We do have a free will to serve God, or not, just as Joshua and the Israelites

 Joshua 24:15 … choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Also do not get ahead of God and throw out things that He intends to keep. Work at His pace. You do not need to understand everything right now, He does, and that is enough. It is one piece at a time and one day at a time. Eventually this thousand-piece puzzle will make sense.

Don’t give up today when things look dark or hopeless. God ‘s blessings might be just around the corner waiting for you to pass the test. The Spirit of the Lord is with you and watching over you. It just may be this time tomorrow that your situation will have changed for the better. If not, it might just be the next day.

* Joseph waited 13 years after being sold into slavery and thrown into prison before he was put in charge of Egypt.
* Moses thought God was done with him after he killed an Egyptian and was tending goats and Sheep in the wilderness for 40 years before God used him to lead two million Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 3)
* Daniel was taken into exile to a foreign land and waited years before he was used by God and made the one in charge of Babylon (Daniel 2:48).
* Mordecai was in exile and was on the verge of a mass genocide before God made him the one in charge of Persia (Esther 10:3).

All of these people were slaves, prisoners and exiles living among pagan nations, that served other gods and idols, for many years, yet they prospered because they waited for, and continued to serve, God Almighty. God is able to make you shine above the rest. He is able to protect and prosper you no matter how much time has passed or what circumstances you are in.

**🡪 Remember how God has delivered you in the past and know that He will deliver You again as well. Speak only good things about the future and trust God will provide.**

**In Tom Petty’s song the waiting he sings:**

**The waiting is the hardest part
Every day you see one more card
You take it on faith, you take it to the heart
The waiting is the hardest part**