

July 27, 2017



Waiting on God

I hate to wait. Having to patiently wait for things is a big challenge for me, but we are all called to wait upon the Lord. The life of faith is a life of waiting on God.

While God is never late according to eternal time schedules, and He always has a bigger picture in view (eternal perspective), God always seems to answer in an idea He refers to as "the fullness of time."

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BLOG

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*Galatians 4:4 But **when the fullness of the time came**, God sent forth His Son.*

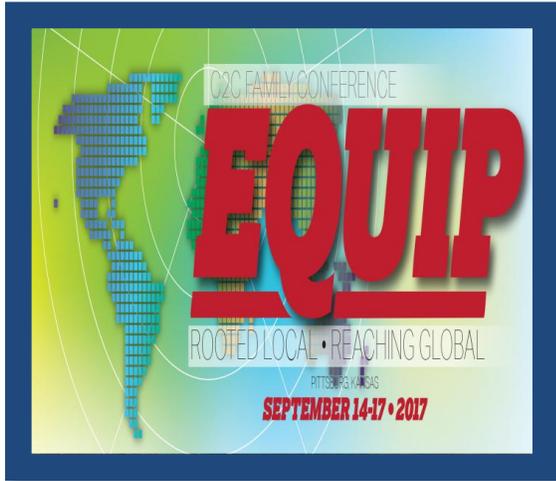
*Ecclesiastes 3:11(NCV) **God does everything just right and on time**, but people can never completely understand what he is doing.*

The "fullness of time" rarely matches the time schedule we have in our inner ordering and receiving department.

Our impatience and inability to wait is the source of many problems like debt (we want it, we don't have the money for it, we don't want to wait for it, so we charge it), yet patience is part of the nature of God we are to walk in. We can be in a hurry when God isn't. God is never in a hurry because He is eternal. Patience is a God designed virtue.

- *1Co 13:4 Love is **patient***
- *1Th 5:14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, **be patient with everyone**.*
- *2Ti 2:24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, **patient** when wronged,*
- *Jas 5:7 Therefore **be patient**, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.*

- *Jas 5:8 **You too be patient**; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.*



God is usually doing many good things we are unaware of in the midst of our waiting on Him. It is good to remember one of the important ways God works in the midst of waiting; **He works on us before He works on our problems (ouch!)**. If we get everything when we want it, the way we want it, then we would become selfish brats. Our character is more important than our comfort.

Ephesians 4:22-24 MSG...take on an entirely new way of life — a God-fashioned life, a life

*renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as **God accurately reproduces his character in you.***

Important things to remember when waiting on God

- **Frustration, anger, and impatience usually reveals a deeper issue of something not right in our heart regarding walking in God's love.** "Love is patient..."
- **If unchecked our impatient flesh will destroy the most valuable things in our present (relationships etc.).** It does so by destroying our joy, hope, and faith in God's future.
- **Patience is an importance aspect of the nature of God that gets worked in us during waiting.** Patience is a companion of humility and the enemy of pride. *Ecccl 7:8 The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.* Patience forces us to acknowledge God is God and we are not. Patience is the first trait that Paul mentions as love (1 Cor 13:4). **It is one of the most repeated exhortations for leaders** (1 Thes 5:14, 2 Tim 2:24, 4:2). Patience is such a God trait that Paul twice refers to it as proof of and a defense of his apostleship (2 Cor 6:4-6, 12:12).
- **Don't focus on what isn't happening.** Focus on and give thanks for what has happened, what is happening, and His promises.
- **There is always a natural delay between planting and harvesting.** *Ecclesiastes 3:1-5 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven . . . A time to plant and a time to harvest . . .* We always reap and harvest in a different season than the one we sow in.

- **There is always an unseen spiritual battle that goes on in praying and receiving the answer.** *Ephesians 6:12 (TEV) We are not struggling and fighting against human beings but against evil spiritual forces in the heavenly realm—the rulers, authorities, and powers of darkness.* We get a glimpse of the spiritual warfare behind the scenes in Daniel. A delay is not always a denial.
- **Waiting on God has a way of causing us to draw upon God's strength and works it in us in a greater capacity.** *Isaiah 40:31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.*
- **Waiting puts us in good company with the saints down through the centuries.** Hannah had to wait years; Joseph had 17 years of trial; Abraham waited 26 years from promise until Isaac came; and Noah worked 120 years building the ark before it rained. There are also many other saints all over the world, some in worse situations than you, who are waiting on God right now (Hebrews 11:2).
- **Waiting works to facilitate a closer walk with God.** *Psalms 40:1 I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me.*
- **God always keeps His promises.** *Habakkuk 2:3 (CEV) At the time I have decided, my words will come true. You can trust what I say about the future. It may take a long time, but keep on waiting—it will happen!”*
- **Not yet does not mean no.** Don't start over-speculating in the midst of waiting.

Patience is a companion of humility and the enemy of pride. Eccl 7:8 The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

Waiting and patience are not our enemies but an opportunity to share in the nature and glory of God.

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