

GOD'S TIMING

Are you waiting for a breakthrough?

Many of us would like to know how and when things will happen in life, so we can have control of events and our destiny. There are times we have to trust God is working things out on our behalf for the best, even if we cannot see it, this is living by faith!



*The righteous will live by faith
(Romans 1:17)*

Sometimes when God gives us a promise, dream, vision or a calling, it may not happen how and when we expect it to, and we become impatient and frustrated, which robs us of our joy and peace on the journey to where he wants us.

*“Be still and know that I am God”
(Psalm 46:10)*

Are You wondering why it isn't here yet?

We have to believe God's timing is perfect, never early or never late. But our human nature makes waiting for God's timing difficult. Knowing how and when events will happen may not be in our best interest. There are some things we just have to leave with God instead of reasoning and trying to figure them out. When we have no control over certain circumstances whatsoever, God is in complete control!

*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. (Jeremiah 29:11)*

God wants us to live by faith and this isn't what we are doing when we try to figure out or work things out for Him. Trusting God is not knowing how or when He will accomplish it, it is knowing that he will accomplish it! especially when faced with an impossible situation. He can create openings and open doors when there seems to be no opening. He is a God of the impossible and can make a way where there is no way. But God often uses waiting and trials as a means of stretching our patience and strengthening our faith. This is how we mature as Christians.

*For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens
to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it
will surely come; it will not delay. (Habakkuk 2:3)*

Perhaps you feel God has forgotten you!

As Christians, one of the hardest things for many of us to do is wait on the Lord and trust His timing. Change is a process which often takes time, many of us want the change without the waiting.

We learn to trust God more when he takes us through different trials and experiences. The fast-paced world in which we live today has reduced our patience considerably, and God is trying to work this virtue back into many of us. Most things are adapted towards speed, efficiency and saving time. With advanced technology and the credit available, we can often get things we want without the waiting, this makes it more difficult to adjust to God's timetable.

*“But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their
strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and
not faint” (Isaiah 40:31)*

Do you wonder why God is delaying His intervention?

When we question God's timing, it is often because we are looking for direction or want to be delivered from a difficult situation. Our ability to wait upon the Lord is connected to how much we trust Him.

*“And we know that for those who love God all things
work together for good, for those who are called
according to his purpose”. (Romans 8:28)*

Are you trying to fix the situation instead of allowing God to take care of it?

Patience is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) which is developed through trials, which most of us would rather avoid and run from. God has designed specific trials to shape us for the calling He has on our life, as painful as they may be. If we reason and try to work things out instead of trusting Him, it will only lead to confusion, frustration and disappointment. Trust God is working things out in your present circumstances for the best, but He doesn't do things according to our timetable. Although to us He may appear slow, He works things out exactly at the right time, His time! God is sovereign and often makes us wait to test our faith and to prepare us for His future plans. It can be hard coming to terms with God's timing, we measure it in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years. We commence and finish work at a certain time, we have timetables and appointments at certain times on certain days, but God is outside of time, He has his own timing.

*‘With the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a
thousand years as one day’ (2 Peter 3:8)*

If we try to move ahead of God's timing, we will soon come up against obstacles, or things won't work out or they will quickly fall apart.

If God reveals a specific calling on our life, He expects us to trust and obey Him as we progress towards that call, and He will work things out on our behalf. Most mature Christians have had their faith and patience stretched at some point during their Christian walk and have stories of God's timing.

God works to a schedule

God doesn't always fulfil His promises right away as He sees the bigger picture. In Genesis we read how Joseph waited many years for the fulfilment of his dream. His brothers conspired against him and sold him as a slave, he was falsely accused of an offence on Potiphar's wife and was then imprisoned. But God was with Joseph, he prospered in all he done (Genesis 39:2) because God's blessing and protection was on his life. During his three-year imprisonment, the Lord gave him favour with the Prison Officer who entrusted him and put him in charge. Joseph developed the divine gift of interpreting dreams. This was training before he was brought before Pharaoh to interpret a dream no-one else could. Joseph had to be prepared before God opened the position for which He had been called. When we read the story of Joseph's life, we can see God working things out on his behalf.

- Moses was in the desert for 40 years before God sent him to deliver the Israelites from Egypt
- David had to wait 13 years before he was made king of Israel
- Abraham had to wait 25 years for his son Isaac to be born
- Noah had to wait for 120 years from the time God told him to build the ark until the flood came
- The apostles waited 10 days after Jesus ascended before receiving the Holy Spirit in the upper room
- Christ's first coming: Jesus came at exactly the right time to redeem mankind.
- Jesus kept in step with God's timing. He had to wait till He was 30 years old before His 3½ year ministry commenced.
- Return of Christ: Jesus himself promised *"Behold I am coming soon, and my reward is with me."*

Over 2,000 years ago Jesus promised He would return. For centuries, Christians have believed this. In faith we have built churches and have lived with the confidence and hope of Christ's return. Many of us still believe this promise today as we see Bible prophecy unfolding, we move forward in faith.

Not knowing the exact timing could be what keeps us on God's plan, as we might give up if we knew how long it would take. There are times when our patience and faith is stretched to the limit and feel we can no longer hold on just before a breakthrough comes, which could be:

- Waiting for your soulmate
- Waiting for your calling
- Waiting for promotion
- Waiting for Healing
- Waiting for answered prayers
- Waiting for a child
- Waiting for God to deliver you from a trial

Although God's timing is not our timing, we can depend on it to be perfect. God has a timing for everything, the perfect time to meet our needs, get a promotion, meet a future husband or wife, save our loved ones, or for our trial to end and the breakthrough to come.

"there is a time and a way for everything, although man's trouble lies heavy on him" (Ecclesiastes 8:6)

Some people have more patience than others. Waiting is a part of life for us all, whether we like it or not!

- Waiting in line at the store
- Wait for a doctor's appointment
- We wait in a hospital waiting room
- We wait in airports, train stations or at bus stops
- We wait in traffic delays
- Wait on a pregnancy before the birth

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

We prove we trust God when we refuse to worry. If you are going through a difficult trial, continue to believe in His timing and His promises. When we trust God and His timing, we can say with confidence:

"Weeping may endure for night, joy comes in morning." (Psalm 30:5)

The Christian life would be far easier if God fulfilled His promises for us straight away, but our faith wouldn't be worth much. Our Heavenly Father knows exactly where we are at in our life. He either put us there or allows us to remain there till He works out His plan. When Christ returns there will no longer be time, we are with him for eternity, forever!

"Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him" (Psalm 37:7)