

Delay

Who likes delays? I know I sure don't and I was reminded of how much on Tuesday when I spent 17 hours in the Houston Airport because of delays! If you have been a Christian for very long, you have experienced God's delays. God's relation to time is indeed very different than our own.

God says to you today:

Don't fret, don't worry, don't get freaked out about it. These things I've told you won't happen right away. What I've told you will come. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!

The Word of God makes it clear that our heavenly Father hears and answers prayer. Yet, at times we have to "wait" for it. The truth is delays are a big part of life and no one likes them. As I sat in the airport all those hours I thought about the word delay and what it means.

I think you're all familiar with the phrase, "Hurry up and wait." God will make a way where there seems to be no way if we will just learn to wait. Fear or anger can grip us when we realize that we have to wait for what we were promised. Delays mean waiting. Delay means - a Period of time where something is late or postponed

This can be:

- Delayed flights-(don't I know that one!)
- Delayed during check out
- Delayed in giving childbirth or delayed labor
- Delayed relationship
- Delayed sitting traffic
- Delay in answered prayer

Delays often have a process through which one needs to wait. The process is often bringing Gods manifested purposes to pass. There is something that happens within us through delays. Some delays are self inflicted, others are at someone else's choices, but all delay requires patience.

As I sat in that airport with thousands of others, I tried to make the most of my "delay". Many were not handling the delay well, and I tried to make a difference in their life. I came to a conclusion, our life is not a series of random events even though we may be waiting a long time for something.

Some of you have been delayed or feel delayed. This delay has been difficult, and as most delays are, it's costing you something.

Delays are never convenient and they can be challenging on many levels. Delays can cause us to act in ways we would never normally act. Delays can leave us confused or filled with uncertainty.

Proverbs 13:12, refers to delays when it says, "hope deferred." Deferred here means a delay is happening that is tampering with someone's hope making their heart feel sick. You are not alone! There are numerous Biblical characters who experienced delays waiting on God to move.

Abraham
Sara
Jacob
Noah
David

Joseph - Genesis 39 (Joseph dreams came to pass years later). Not to mention mean he spent 2 years in prison waiting to be remembered... At the time when things were happening Joseph couldn't see what God was really doing. But eventually he was able to look back and see Gods divine hand upon each situation.

Or how about the Prophet Hosea? He kept waiting for his unfaithful wife to be faithful. And what about Joseph and Mary who had to flee Nazareth and stay away for years until Herod died? They left family, friends and all that was familiar! Are you in a place that is unfamiliar?

Its in delays we learn to trust Him or not. We learn how God is truly working things out behind the scenes. His plans are always being worked out even when we can't see it. Friends, Gods purposes and plans for your life will prevail.

Today is a call to trust in His purposes regardless of where you are. Today is a call to trust in His process. God doesn't move on our time table. His timing is perfect and often not the same as ours - because our time is not the same as His.

God says, "These things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!"
Habakkuk 2:3 (LB)

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