

THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

THE DISCIPLINES OF DELAY

*A PRACTICAL SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES
AND HOW WE SHOULD BE LIVING IN THE WORLD AROUND US*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Christianity 101, Faith, Wisdom, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

Psalm 40:1-2

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **:19 Go therefore** and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **:20 teaching them to observe all things** that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

**One of The Greatest Weaknesses That Christians Have Today,
Is that of a mature character in spiritual things.**

Psalm 40:1-2

I waited patiently for the LORD; And He **inclined** to me, And heard my cry. **:2** He brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps.

**“How many of us are waiting
to hear from the Lord about something in our lives ?**

How can we know if the answer we have is from God or not ?

And, is there a way to know what God's will is for our lives ?

- The Discipline of Delay”

What good can come out of waiting ?

Job 30:26

When I looked for good, then evil came unto me: and when I **waited** for light, there came darkness.

Waiting wreaks havoc with our emotions.

THE DISCIPLINE OF DELAY

1. God knows exactly what time it is

Why does it feel like the Lord is late sometimes ?

Like when He's dealing with things in my life. Like when am I going to find Ms. Perfect or Mr. Right ? Like when am I going to get a new job ? and like when am I going to get healed or feel better ?

Time and **Timing** is God's Sovereign Business

Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts,

Turn to John 11:1-45

When He Delays – We Must Obey

So you've prayed and you've been reading your Bible; but what do you do if you don't have an answer ?

You wait on God

But what does it mean to wait on God?

It's a commitment to seek after Him, His Word, His will and to obey Him. You eat up the Bible. You speak it into your life and pray it into your life.

It's only by waiting on the Lord

that we overcome anxieties, threats, fears and confusion.

In fact - show me someone who's worried and troubled as a habit, and I will show you someone who cannot sit still with God.

Psalm 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!

THE DISCIPLINE OF DELAY

2. God has His own **plan** in action

John 16:13

When He, the Spirit of truth, has come,
He will guide you into all truth;

God's Plan is to Create within You a Dynamic Christian
Life.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God
(pre)-prepared beforehand that we should **walk in them**.

When He Delays – We Must Obey

Psalm 37:7

Rest in the LORD, and **wait patiently** for Him;

The Discipline of Delay

***Separates** you from the advice of the world.*

John 15:5-7

"I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. :6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. :7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

The **longer** we have to wait, the more **clearly** we see, the more **simple** things become, the **less** people we have hanging around.

The Discipline of Delay

***Drives** you to look to God alone.*

Psalm 130:5

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. :6 My soul *waits* for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning - Yes, *more than* those who watch for the morning.

There is a **purging** that takes place when the **situations** of life leave us feeling **alone**, empty, **scared**, - after we've been **stripped**.

The Discipline of Delay

***Settles** God's word into your heart and mind.*

1 Peter 5:10

Now may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have **suffered a while**, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

The Discipline of Delay

***Enables** you to trust in Him deeper*

James 1:2-4

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, :3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. :4 But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

The Discipline of Delay

***Develops** a mature and enduring faith*

Romans 5:2-5a

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. :3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; :4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: :5 And hope maketh not ashamed;

THE DISCIPLINE OF DELAY

3. God knows how it's all going to turn out

Isaiah 46:9-10

Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, :10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, "My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,"

Isaiah 55:11

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Think about how things turned out for:

Noah / Abraham / Joseph / Moses / Daniel – all of God's people have gone through seasons of delay and waiting.

When He Delays – We Must Obey

Here's a Warning of a Most Serious Kind

2 Peter 3:3-4

knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, :4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?"

Matthew 24:44-51

Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. :45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? :46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. :47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. :48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, "My master is delaying his coming," :49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, :50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, :51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus **who delivers us** from the wrath to come.

Galatians 5:5

For we through the Spirit **eagerly wait** for the hope of righteousness by faith.

Luke 12:35-37

“Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; :36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. :37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching.

James 5:7-8

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. :8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Romans 8:24

Now that we are saved, we eagerly look forward to this freedom. For if you have what you hope for, then there is no longer any need for it. :25 But if we look forward to something that we do not have, we must wait patiently and confidently for it.

THE DISCIPLINE OF DELAY

4. God wants us to wait for His results

This Is Where Many Christians Get into Trouble.
Impatience is a Sin and failing to Meditate on God invites disaster.

Psalm 27:13

I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. :14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

Wait hDwðq qavah, kaw-vaw´;

to bind together by weaving and twisting. to become one.

The 1st Century Church was “Born Waiting”

Acts 1:4-8

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father... :6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” :7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. :8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the world.”

Listen Christian to this Advice

“We can try to bring about the results we want. We can try to make things happen. We can throw money at something, or effort, or emotion, even good intentions...

Psalm 127:1

Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it;
Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

Proverbs 16:25

There is a way that seems right to a man,
But its end is the way of death.

“Have you ever known someone who said...

“The Lord told me to move here or there or the Lord told me to do this or that or the Lord told me to become a missionary or a pastor”
and in every case “**God made a Mistake**”

When He Delays – We Must Obey

Our waiting is to be “**Actively Waiting**”
we’re to be obeying Him in all those things of scripture
that He has already commanded.

But PastorJack;

I don’t have a husband yet – or a wife yet,
what am I supposed to be doing until then ?

The Answer my friend is To “**Let God be God**” –
It’s Amazing what He can do when you just obey Him and let Him...

Matthew 6:33

**But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.**

Galatians 1:15-17

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called *me* through His grace, :16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, :17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those *who were* apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

**Come Forward For a Time,
A Night of Dedication & Re-
Dedication**

Revelation 21:5

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

————— *End of Study* —————