

DELAYED, YET DEFINITE

Text: Daniel 10:10-13

Key Word: Wait

Key Thought: God Often has us Pray and then Makes us Wait for the Answer

INTRODUCTION: Have you ever had to pray and wait? I suppose this is one of life's most difficult tasks. You see, we live in an "instant society". We have: Instant Cameras; Instant Potatoes; Instant Credit. We come QUICKLY to the drive up window, wanting QUICK FOODS, and demand QUICK SERVICE!

Someone has said:

This is the age of the half-read page
And the quick bash, and the mad dash
The bright night with the nerves tight
The plane hop with the brief stop
The lamp tan in a short span
The big shot in a good spot
And the brain strain & the heart pain
And the cat naps, 'til the spring snaps
And the fun's done!!

I have talked with many people who tell me they don't have time to slow down -- yet they reach a point where they are slowed down either by a physical or emotional problem. We wonder why we are in such a state of confusion and turmoil, when the answer is that we violate the principles of God's Word regarding rest!

Mankind has the tendency to endeavor to work out his own problems. Rather than "**Pray and Wait**" our life's motto seems to be "**Pray and Work,**" or in the case of some "**Pray and Whine.**" We often take a lack of immediate response from God as a sign that God is either not listening, or not caring. This is most definitely not the case! I want to address this subject this morning in a message entitled "**Delayed, Yet Definite.**".

Turn with me please to Daniel chapter 10 where we find a great example of seeing a delayed answer to prayer. I believe there are many dynamics in this story which may help us gain a clearer understanding when delays take place.

"A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

11. He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

INTRODUCTION (Contd.)

12. Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

13. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia . . .

18. Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength.

Daniel 10:10-13,18

"Daniel, who's name means **"God is my judge"** was a statesman in the court of heathen kings. Taken captive as a youth to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC, he spent the rest of his long life there as a governmental official and as a prophet of the true God. Daniel is called a prophet by our Lord in *Matthew 24:15*, and his prophecies are of immense importance.

The Book of Revelation is often referred to when dealing with **"end time events."** It's impossible, however to have a true understanding of what is to come without placing the Book of Daniel alongside the Book of Revelation.

We find in our text that Daniel had been given a series of visions regarding the end of the world as we know it. And, as is often the case the visions were not easily understood. Therefore, Daniel began to fast and pray to the LORD regarding the significance of these visions. Eventually, God sent an angel to Daniel who said *"I am here to tell you what is written in the "Book of the Future" . . ." (v 20).* **But there was a waiting period between Daniel's prayer and the answer.** The passage tells us it took 21 long days for the answer to arrive.

We Find in this Story . . .

I. GOD'S INCLINED EAR (10:12)

II. GOD'S OUTSTRETCHED HAND (10:13)

III. GOD'S ULTIMATE PLAN

I. GOD'S INCLINED EAR (10:12)

I suppose one of the most wonderful things about our relationship with God is that He truly cares for His people and listens to their cry! We find many beautiful images of this care in the Psalms.

"I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry."

Psalm 40:1

*"In my distress I called to the LORD;
I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry came before him, into his ears."*

Psalms 18:6

One of our Adversary's most formidable weapons is deceit. After all, he is referred to as the "**father of liars**" (**John 8:44**). He seeks to tarnish the loving character of God. One tactic he employs is by telling Christians that God is not really interested in our daily routines of life. "*Why pray, God is not really listening. And if He is, He doesn't really care.*"

If you have felt this way my friend, be assured that this lie has come hissing out of the depths of hell. God's ear IS inclined toward us. Not only do we as the lambs hear and recognize the voice of the Shepherd, the Shepherd hears and recognizes the voice of His lambs!

*** I once heard a story of a man named Bobby who would always begin his prayers by saying "*Jesus, this is Bobby,*" then would proceed with his prayer. Bobby was committed to spending time with his Lord every day. And every day it was the same: "*Jesus, this is Bobby.*" Then came the day when Bobby was taken gravely ill. He was rushed to the hospital. In his room, as Bobby lay in a semi-conscious state unable to pray, he looked up to see a man standing at the foot of his bed. The One standing there said "*Bobby, this is Jesus.*" ***

II. GOD'S OUTSTRETCHED HAND (10:13)

Not only does our text show us "**God's Inclined Ear**" it also shows us "**God's Outstretched Hand.**" I tell you this morning that God not only **hears us**, He **helps us!** That is important for us to understand. It is one thing to **hear**, it is another to **help**.

I want to return to two passages I read a moment ago and continue to read further in the passages.

II. GOD'S OUTSTRETCHED HAND (10:13) (Contd.)

"I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.

2. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

3. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD. "

Psalm 40:1-3

*"In my distress I called to the LORD;
I cried to my God for help.*

*From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry came before him, into his ears. . .*

*9. He parted the heavens and came down;
dark clouds were under his feet . . .*

*16. He reached down from on high and took hold of
me; he drew me out of deep waters.*

*17. He rescued me from my powerful enemy,
from my foes, who were too strong for me."*

Psalms 18:6,9,16-17

Not only does God hear, He acts. When we pray we can anticipate Him inclining His ear toward us, and also stretching out His arm to help deliver us. It might be **delayed**, but God's help is **definite!** We find that Daniel's answer was delayed by the activity of demonic forces sent to disrupt the plan of God.

*"But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me
twenty-one days."*

Daniel 10:13

*"for twenty-one days the mighty Evil Spirit who
overrules the kingdom of Persia blocked my way ..."*

I want you to get the true picture. Daniel prayed, God heard; Angels were dispatched immediately. However there was a delay. But notice this delay was only temporary! Nothing and no one can hold back the hand of God unless He chooses to have it happen for a purpose.

Verse 13 continues *"Then Michael, one of the top officers of the heavenly army, came to help me, so that I was able to break through these spirit rulers of Persia."*

II. GOD'S OUTSTRETCHED HAND (10:13) (Contd.)

Listen to me: The adversary may delay the plan of God, but he will never defeat the plan of God! I personally believe this angel who was speaking to Daniel was Gabriel. You see, in Daniel 9:20-21 we read "...while I was praying ...Gabriel ... flew swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice . . ."

And though the forces of the evil one were able to hinder Gabriel (**notice: hinder, not destroy**), all he had to do was call for help from Michael the Archangel. There was another war in the heavens and once again the enemies of God were defeated!

If the adversary and his hosts have delayed the answer to your prayer, just hang on. Because if needs be God will send another angel to fight! Your answer may be delayed, yet it is definite! There's a better day coming!! Victory is on the horizon! Through God we will overcome --- the adversary is defeated! God has inclined His ear, and outstretched His arm!! Wait upon the Lord!

III. GOD'S ULTIMATE PLAN

If there is anything of which I am sure, it is that God has an ultimate plan for our lives. Even when the answer seems to be delayed, it is for a purpose. I understand that not even the devils of hell can frustrate the will and plan of God. Why, then does He permit the delay? Why not simply render the opposing forces powerless? Why not set up a "hot line" from heaven to earth, whereby we can achieve instantaneous results.

Make no mistake about it. There are those times when prayer must be answered NOW. But why aren't all prayers answered instantaneously. Though it may be hard to believe, there are positive aspects to waiting. It causes us to mature in the faith. It brings patience. It will help develop our confidence in God.

Thank God He does not offer instantaneous answers to all prayers we pray. If He did, we would be in a mess. I wonder if you have ever prayed a prayer you really didn't mean? I know I have! What does Scripture have to say regarding waiting on the Lord?

"Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD."

Psalm 27:14

III. GOD'S ULTIMATE PLAN (Contd.)

"Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes."

Psalm 37:7

For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

Habakkuk 2:3

Someone may ask the question *"If God knows what I have need of before I ever ask, why must I ask?"* The best response is ***"Because God knows what we require the most is time spent with Him in prayer!"*** God's ultimate plan for our life is that we wait patiently and confidently upon Him.

We must be like Paul, when he wrote

"being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised."

Romans 4:21

We should never call into question the integrity of God! If He has promised it --- He will bring it to pass. It may be delayed, but it is definite! He will answer our prayers when we pray according to His will.

CONCLUSION:

So what is it I have endeavored to tell us this morning. Allow me to summarize:

1. God Hears Our Prayers

"The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry;"

Psalm 34:15

CONCLUSION (Contd.)

2. God Acts upon Our Prayers

“The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.”

Psalm 34:17

3. Sometimes Our Prayers Are Hindered by the Adversary

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Ephesians 6:12

4. God Has Promised an Ultimate Victory

“...and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Matthew 16:18

5. Waiting Is Often in Our Best Interest

“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

One thing of which we can be sure --- **the answer may be Delayed, but it is Definite!**

Cf. - Delayed, Yet Definite by R. Deem

C:\My Documents\WPWin(2020)\Sermons.2021\Hearing God's Voice\Daniel10_10.13.wpd

Date: Feb 28/21

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: I Put all My Trust in You

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II. GOD'S OUTSTRETCHED HAND (10:13) - *Psalm 40:1-3; Psalms 18:6,9,16-17; Daniel 9:20-21*

III. GOD'S ULTIMATE PLAN - *Psalm 27:14; Psalm 37:7; Habakkuk 2:3; Romans 4:21*

CONCLUSION

1. **God Hears Our Prayers** - *Psalm 34:15*
2. **God Acts upon Our Prayers** - *Psalm 34:17*
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