

TRUSTING GOD'S TIMING

“Wise men say, only fools rush in” is a line in a popular song created in 1940. Foolish people rush into things with little thought of the consequences just so they can get what they want immediately.

They eventually realise that **impatience** leads to **negative emotions** and then **compromises** that lead to even..... **more delays**.

God has a different timetable

The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NCV), “God ... does everything just right and on time, but people can never completely understand what he is doing.”

God's promise and Abraham's impatience

In Abraham's old age, God promised him a son, an heir. God says in Genesis 15:4, *“This man (referring to Abraham's servant Eliezer) will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.”*

Abraham received the promise with so much faith, so much excitement at that time. This has been his heart's desire for the longest time.

Abraham waited. Years passed. He waited some more, and then some more.

When Abraham's faith turned into impatience

He probably started thinking:

- *Did God forget about the promise?*
- *Will He still make this happen?*
- *How long must I wait?*

Because of impatience, Abraham took matters into his own hands.

Instead of trusting God's promises, ways, and timing, he compromised and started thinking about creating Plan B. He thought of helping God. He slept with Sarah's maidservant, Hagar, in order to have a son.

Complications when we can't wait

This thoughtless act resulted to numerous complications:

- there was **tension** between Abraham and Sarah
- **competition** between Sarah and Hagar
- the **neglect** of his son
- **religious conflict** we experience up to this very day
- the **ongoing conflict** between the nation of Israel and the Arab countries

But after all of his mishaps, God still reiterated His promise in Genesis 17:19 where He says, *"your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him."*

3 notable ways God answers our prayers

- **Yes, you will have it at a specific time.**
- **Wait, be patient and trust Me** (no time is given).
- **I have a better plan for you.**

Yes, you will have it at a specific time – is the one every Christian loves to hear all the time.

But if this is the case, then the word 'patience' and 'trust' will not be needed, because we already know what and when to expect it.

Wait, be patient and trust Me – is the most common response to our prayer. In this response, God wants us to wait till an unknown time but known to Him only.

David wrote in Psalm 69:3, "*I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; my eyes fail while I wait for my God.*"

And again, in Psalm 62:1, he wrote, "*My soul waits in silence for God only; from Him is my salvation.*"

I have a better plan for you – is what we do not want to hear because it's not what we want even when we say we want God's will.

But when God says that He has a better plan for us, we should rest assured it is for our good because He has already promised us in Romans 8:28 that, "*all things work together for our good*".

Jesus' prayer in Luke 22:42 says, "*Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.*"

What lessons we can learn when trusting God's timing?

- **God has a timetable for our life.**

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV) says this, "*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.*"

There is a right time for everything.

Galatians 6:9 says, "*And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*"

- **God has details of His plan in advance.**

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NCV) says, "*God has given us a desire to know the future. He always does everything just right and on time, but people can never completely understand what he is doing.*"

Acts 1:7 (The Message) says, "*You don't get to know the time. Timing is the father's business.*"

So, another way of saying this is.... IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS.

- **God is always on time.**

God is never late. He's never in a hurry. His timing is perfect.

2 Peter 3:8 (NIV) says, "*Never forget this: With the Lord, a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.*"

In Habakkuk 2:3, God says this, "*The vision **WILL** happen at the time I have appointed. It moves steadily toward its goal and it will not be proven false. If it seems slow or delayed, just wait for it! It will certainly happen. It will not be late!*"

- **God's timing is not always convenient.**

In Luke chapter 2:1, "*At that time, Caesar Augustus ordered all people under Roman rule to return to their hometown to register in a census.... So, Joseph took Mary with him to Bethlehem, and by this time she was very pregnant... In Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby.*"

None of that was convenient for Mary and Joseph.

- **God can do anything at the right time.**

At the right time, God can do anything instantly.

In Isaiah 60:22, God says this, "*I am the Lord, so when the right time comes, I will make it all happen quickly!*"

In Isaiah 49:8, God says this, "*At the right time I will answer your prayers!*"

- **Delay is not denial.**

There's a big difference between no and not yet.

When there is a delay in our life, it can create all kinds of negative emotions. We start worrying, we start stressing out, we get anxious, we get irritable, we can get envious or jealous.

When God says, "*I never delay my promise*" — that's absolutely true as confirmed from scriptures, because it is His timeframe that matters, not ours.

Conclusion

In closing, God will always be faithful to us, to the promises He has given us and He will certainly enable us to do what He has called us to do as part of His plan. Let's trust Him for all we need.

Be wise, don't rush. Trust in God's promises, and God's ways, and God's timing.

And if like Abraham, we've compromised in the past, God wants to remind us today, His promises and His plans for our life have not been cancelled out. They will prevail.