

Patience & Prayer

Written by James Washington
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This really is a blast from the past with regard to my thoughts about two very powerful spiritual concepts, patience and prayer. I remember pastor Frederick Douglas “Freddie” Haynes of Friendship West Baptist Church telling his congregation that “There is no such thing as an emergency in eternity.”

This captures my thoughts about these two compelling truths when combined to forge an awareness that all Christians should embrace. By that I mean that an understanding of time, God’s time, must somehow be reconciled with man’s view of time. Prayer seems to provide a unique mechanism by which we can accomplish this. In our so called fast paced world, we have a tendency to want what we want now, immediately, including what we ask God for. Many of us want to be saved from something now, delivered from, sent to, get ours or have it solved now. As if God operated on our time schedule, we actually question God’s judgment based on the length of time He answers our pleas for divine intervention. Prayer and its effect, in this case, is determined and evaluated by us as the body clock goes.

Many of us want to treat these situations as if God was on call waiting for our text. Having been here many times in the past, I have come to understand through prayer and belief in God’s ultimate power that you will get your answer, eventually. Trust me. It will be the right answer and it will also be right on time. Think about it. How many things can you look back over your life and thank God that you didn’t get that you begged and pleaded for; might have even cried for. Was it a job? Maybe a wayward spouse? Some man or woman you couldn’t live without? Now through the blessing of hindsight, it turns out that the best thing that could have possibly happened actually happened. You can honestly say had you gotten that which you prayed for, couldn’t have lived without is exactly what would have spelled disaster for you. As a matter of fact, it’s a blessing that that problem belongs to someone else now and good riddance, really. Through prayer I’ve come to believe that one of the beautiful things about the Lord is He will bless you with the absence of what you think you need and the time to realize it. Or should I say appreciate it?

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We've all been told at one time or another that God will never put more on you than you can handle. I am a living witness to this. Many a day I've known that I couldn't make it another day. Another further I just could not go only to find myself by the grace of God and the Holy Spirit, that when the sun arose on the next day, so did I. At these times you begin to realize to leave it after you've placed it in the hands of God. Prayer requires patience in this regard. Yep. Let go. Let God. Jesus did the dirty work for us. We just have to force ourselves to remember why. "He said to them. 'It is not for you to know the time the times or the dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..." Acts 1:7-8. This power I believe is evident when patience and prayer come together and reveals to us that there is divine reason for us to go experience what it is that you and I go through each and every day. On a daily basis we must submit to His will. There is no salvation without submission. Without salvation, prayers cannot and will not be answered. So when you want God to hurry up because you're at the point of losing your mind, that's proof, you're not ready.

My own testimony tells me that until I could and did give it all up to God, I couldn't appreciate anything that He had for me. And believe me, He had and has a lot. Like Abraham, it is only with total belief in the father that a ram appears in the bush.

May God bless and keep you always.