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Learning to Wait on God

By Rev. Jerry Rea

Sometimes we know all we are “supposed” to know but, it’s just hard to wait on something to happen. We pray believing that God hears and answers prayer. We preach knowing that His word never returns void. We give a testimony or witness and never experience any noticeable feedback. Have you ever had the experience of having given someone a precious gift, and there is no response? We have often prayed for our children and have received this empty feeling. There is no evidence that we’ve gotten through. Maybe this is why people quit praying. Maybe you can understand when people are not that hyped up about “reaching out”... again. The last time we helped the person was unappreciative or apathetic. We begin to feel it’s not working or it’s just not worth it.

Let me interject. Perhaps you’re on the right track, but your seed requires a little time to sprout. We raise our kids and teach them right and wrong. We hope they “get it,” but maybe there is very little feedback. Then years later, they tell us we were right way back then. They spontaneously begin to put into practice what they should’ve done long ago. We wonder how it all happened, until we remember the seed we planted, in hope, so long ago. Some kids take a long time to grow up. What am I talking about, some of us adults took a long time to grow up. Some are not even grown yet.

So, now the key becomes learning to wait. No one likes to wait. Very few of us are very good at it, but, wait we must. We must wait on seeds to sprout; then there’s a while before they actually break ground. We must wait on our children (and others) to grow up. It takes a while for so many people to actually “get it.” But then they do. I’ve talked with seniors in assisted living who are just now growing up to the point of being able to put into their lives the faith and spirituality they learned as children. Granted, that is a waste. I know it’s a waste, but more importantly we must always factor in the wait. If you want to build a dog house, there is very little waiting involved. There is very little planning. There are no architects to consult, but it is (after all) only a dog house. If you build a home, there are so many hoops to jump through. You must obtain financing. There is the hunt for a good builder. Most of them have a long line of people waiting to be next. There is the selection of land, or ideas to consider about the current location. All these things take time. So, we’re back to the ugly four-letter word, “wait.” If you’re building a life (as opposed to a home), it’s worth the wait.

With faith and hope we wait, believing in what we’re doing and the one who brought us there. With a vision of our better future we... “wait.” With fervent prayers for a good life ahead we... “wait.” If you’re not there, perhaps you are in the “waiting” room. God’s waiting room is actually a positive thing. So, learn to wait. The best things in life take time, and God is in control.

I love you,
Jerry Rea