****

**What Do You Do When God Makes You Wait?**



**By: Dr. Sharon Mancha**

2020 July

Have you ever struggled with waiting for God to fix your problems or answer your prayers? Well, this is not uncommon. Many of us struggle to wait for answered prayer. However, there is the journey between prayer and answered prayer where we develop as believers and form a deeper relationship with God. It is in this place, that we grow stronger and learn about who we really are spiritually.

I am a living witness about God demanding patience of us, and it is a lot like he did with Israel when he brought her out of Egypt and she had to learn to walk with God in the wilderness before she was able to enter into the promised land. This season is when we exercise our spiritual muscles, learn patience and allow the process of developing fruits of the spirit, while patience have its perfect work in us, but it is for our good. Tribulation worketh patience according to the scripture. This means that while we are going through our trials we are to learn how to wait on God with the right spirit, which is being consistent in our Bible study, our pursuit of God, and teaching ourselves the discipline of waiting.

This humility that I’m speaking of is the one where we manage our emotions when they’re raging for an answer right now. A good practice is to speak to your spirit and teach it self-discipline. Meaning, we must develop strength and ability to teach ourselves the necessary skills through the knowledge of the Word of God and building an intimate relationship with Christ for overcoming anxiousness that is more than likely rooted in doubt. We must teach ourselves that we’re going to survive because God promises to answer our prayers. Now, this is easier said than done. However, it is necessary to grow in Christ. God wants us to learn to have faith and to be content in every season regardless of life’s terrain, dips, turns and bends even if we feel the threat of failure or that suffering of loss is pending. Never give up or yield your faith whether on the mountaintop or in the valley. The Word calls this spiritual maturity.

These difficult seasons in our lives are designed for us to become like Paul in our ability to trust God, be stable, to continue to trust God without any reluctance, doubt forming, or retracting back to self to fix it. When God’s answer is wait, don’t get in a hurry and take things into your own hands to create the outcome you desire instead of waiting on God to do it in his perfect will. When we get ahead of God we miss what the Lord wanted to teach us and what was to be taught was preparation for the next phase or season in life. If you miss gathering the tools and the skills in this season for the next season you’ll be ill prepared and find yourself in a consistent cycle of repeat. I say this because, the Bible teaches that he’ll put no more on us than we can bare. So, if God won’t put any more on us than we are able to endure, if we don’t wait our faith will remain small and not render a harvest for your life. Our, experience with God will be limited and our spiritual growth will be inhibited. This means, you won’t be able to fulfill what God had planned for your destiny.

Walking with God is an adventure, but it does demands of us spiritual growth, character development, spiritual and natural integrity, intellectual poise in the Scriptures, as well as a discipline to love God more than anything. God will answer prayer, if we wait. Waiting does not always mean no!