

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting
April 6, 2025 - Day 27
A Delayed Answer Is Not Always A "No" Answer

Waiting—most of us would rather avoid it at all costs. You arrive for a 10:00 AM doctor's appointment only to be called in at 10:30, then left alone in a tiny exam room for another half hour. You're rushing, but the drawbridge is up. Are you heading to the DMV? You might as well bring a book.

One of the most frustrating delays is when you call a business and hear: *"I'm with another customer, do you mind holding?"*—and before you can shout, *"Yes, I mind!"*—they've already placed you on hold.

But there's a deeper, more complicated kind of waiting: waiting for an answer to prayer. When we pray, we often want instant results. Yet God doesn't always operate on our schedule.

- Take King Saul, for example. The prophet Samuel instructed him to wait seven days for God's guidance. Saul grew impatient and acted on his own, paying a steep price.
- Noah waited 100 years before the rain finally fell. Imagine his joy when the first drops touched the ground!
- Abraham waited a decade for the son God had promised. What a moment it must've been to hear the first cries of his newborn!
- Joseph endured over 13 years of suffering before seeing the fulfillment of his God-given dreams. Imagine realizing that your pain led to the saving of your family.
- David was anointed king but had to wait 15 long, arduous years before actually wearing the crown—years marked by hiding and persecution. Imagine the joy when the crown was finally placed on his head!

Scripture is filled with people who had to wait for the promises of God—but every promise came in God's perfect time. The prophet Habakkuk voiced the same frustration we sometimes feel:

Habakkuk 1:2-4 (CSB) *"How long, Lord, must I call for help and you do not listen or cry out to you about violence, and you do not save? Why do you force me to look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Oppression*

and violence are right in front of me. Strife is ongoing, and conflict escalates..."

Habakkuk wrestled with the silence of God in the face of injustice. To him, it seemed like God was absent or indifferent. But God wasn't absent—He worked in mighty ways behind the scenes.

Habakkuk 2:1-3 (CSB) *I will stand at my guard post and station myself on the lookout tower. I will watch to see what he will say to me... The Lord answered me: Write down this vision; clearly inscribe it on tablets so one may easily read it. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it testifies about the end and will not lie. Though it delays, wait for it, since it will certainly come and not be late."*

God's answer may not be immediate, but His timing is always perfect. The flood came, and Noah's family was saved. Abraham received the promised son. Joseph rose from prison to the palace, and David was crowned king. Each at the exact right time.

A delay is not a denial. When we pray according to God's will, we can be confident that He hears and will respond.

Romans 8:28 (CSB) *"We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."*

So pray—believe—and wait expectantly. When the answer comes, your joy will overflow.

In Christ,
Pastor Tom