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Daily Devotional - Waiting for Answers to Prayer

JUNE 22ND 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Psalms 33:20-22

Scripture makes it clear that our heavenly Father hears and answers prayer. Yet, though we pray for the Lord to act right away, we've all known times when we've had to wait. What are some reasons for the delay?

The Father sees when our attention is misdirected. Our relationship with Him should have priority over any earthly matter ([Mark 12:30](#)), yet minds and prayers can become so fixed upon a need that our gaze shifts away from God. Then He may delay answering until we refocus on Him. In other situations, He waits because the timing isn't right for granting our request. Perhaps certain events must happen first, or people's thinking needs to be changed.

There are also seasons when the Lord wants to stretch and grow our faith. One of the ways He accomplishes that is by having us watch for His response. In these times of waiting, the Holy Spirit will work to mature us and bring forth righteous fruit ([Gal. 5:22-23](#)).

Other reasons are a wrong motive for our request ([James 4:3](#)) and the practice of habitual sin. We all fall short when it comes to God's standard of holiness, but some of us persist in a lifestyle of disobedience. The Lord may delay His answer so He can prompt us to confess our sin and turn back to Him.

Waiting on the Lord isn't easy—faith and trust are needed ([Heb. 11:1](#)). If His answer is delayed, check that your focus is on Him, your motive for asking is God-honoring, and you aren't practicing habitual sin. Then believe that His response will be for your good and His glory.

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