

Good Things Come To Those Who Wait

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Many people refer to us as the microwave generation.

ASK: Why do you think that is???

Everything we do is in a hurry. Everything we need, we can get, fast.

If we're hungry we nuke a hot-pocket and in two minutes, we're munchin' out. If we don't feel like cooking we hit the drive through and in 5-10 minutes we've got the meal of a KING: a triple whopper w/ extra cheese, a King size fry, and Dr. Pepper. If they're running behind, and it takes them 15 minutes we get mad, because we're HUNGRY and we got to have our burger.

When we want music, we don't go to the store and buy it, we get online and download it in a couple minutes, for a dollar a song.

If we want to mail somebody a letter, we sit down at our computer, and as soon as we can get it typed, they receive it... they don't even have to wait a couple days for a letter, and we don't even have to buy a stamp!!! Email rocks!!!

There are actually people at your school that don't eat lunch, just because they don't feel like standing in line. A 10 minute wait is too long for them.

You get the picture... we're a generation used to getting what we want, in a hurry. Everything is fast... well almost everything.

Some of the best things in life require us to have patience. We need to learn to wait if we want to get a good haircut. Girls you need to wait for your nails to dry -so they don't get messed up... we need to wait until we pass all twelve grades to graduate high school, and we need to learn to wait on God.

James 5:7-11 NIV

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. [8] You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. [9] Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

[10] Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. [11] As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Have you ever wondered when Jesus would come back???

Apparently people have been wondering that for a long time. Even back in the early Church, James admonishes them to wait on Christ's return... because He is definitely coming.

There are days, when I wish He would hurry back, like the morning of a final exam or when I walk in a room to find Oscar eating my favorite pair of sneakers.

No one knows when He's coming, but we know He is coming, and we need to make the most of the time. We need to patiently hold fast to our faith, and let nothing sidetrack us.

1. BE PATIENT

Illustration:

When I was a kid, I was very impatient. I still am sometimes, but back then I think it was worse. Have you ever been starving, and it's like 8 PM and mom is still fiddling around making dinner. You've been smelling it now for like an hour, and you've had to wipe the drool from your face like 6 times.

Well, I've been there. My mom is not the fastest person, and she seemed to like having dinner late. So, I would ask her, in my best whiny, hungry voice, "MOOOMM, how long til' dinner?!? I'm starving!!!" She'd always answer back, "Patience is a virtue."

I began to hate that saying, but it's true. Patience is a virtue... that means it's a good character trait to have. James makes it clear, that we've got to learn to be patient in our walk with God.

Isaiah 40:31 KJV

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Waiting on God takes time and effort. Many times we call it devotions, or our personal prayer time. That is our time to talk to God, and spend time waiting in His presence. That's when little children can become spiritual GIANTS!!! The time a little shepherd boy named David spent waiting on God out in the fields, made him into a warrior and a KING. The time Elijah spent waiting on God gave him the authority to speak the word and it didn't rain for 3½ years. The time that Jesus spent waiting on God, gave him the strength to go the cross willingly. The time I spend waiting on God helps me have the wisdom to lead and the words to speak every Friday night. What about you... what do you get from your time with God???

Waiting on God is an essential element of a true Christian walk. If you haven't learned how to wait on God... ask Him for the patience and **discipline yourself** to do it.

2. STAND FIRM

People are going to challenge your faith. Culture is going to challenge your faith. If you go to college, your professors are

going to challenge your faith. Maybe even your "friends" or your own family will challenge your faith.

Your job is not to prove them wrong... and you definitely don't want to fold under pressure. What you have to do is **STAND FIRM**. Let nothing shake your faith. You have to be rooted in the Word of God, so you know the truth. Then nothing will be able to shake your faith. Not teachers, or peers -not war or earthquakes, -not the devil himself. Nothing can shake you if you remain grounded in the truth of God's Word.

3. GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT **Galatians 6:9 NIV**

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time **we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

Good things come to those who wait. **When we wait on God he gives us strength... and when we hold fast in doing good... we get a reward.** We are promised a harvest if we don't give up. Giving up is the opposite of standing firm. If we give up, we get nothing. If we give up in our walk with God, we'll miss out on His plans for us. If we give up on being a witness to our friends, they may never hear the Gospel. If we give up on reading the Bible, we'll never learn. If we give up on serving others, we'll never reach our full potential. Those who give up lose, but those who press on... are winners.

Illustration:

Dave was running in a marathon, he had already run $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles and he had the lead, but he slipped on some gravel and ate it. Six people ran right past him, one even jumped over him, and he could have easily just laid there and given up. With just a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile left to go, it was unlikely that he had a chance. On this particular race, only first place received a prize, it seemed so out of reach. But he didn't even give it a thought. He mustered his strength and got

to his feet. Immediately he took off running, even faster than before. He began to gain on them as they hit an uphill grade. He passed the first two people. With four still in front of him, he spotted the finish line not far off. This only drove him harder. He was sprinting now... with every ounce of strength he had. His knee began to hurt, and he glanced for just a moment and realized he was bleeding... but that only drove him harder. Then he passed one, and another. He was in third now. Just two more to go... and it seemed like the finish line was all to close. But he continued to press on. A moment later he had passed another, and he was in second place. The finish line was less than a hundred yards away. In front of him was the man who had jumped over him as he lay on the road. The number 6 on his back seemed to taunt David, and he gritted his teeth and gained speed. Seconds later he was a step past number 6, pushing through the tape. He won the race, with blood spilling down his knee, dirt on his jersey, and a determined look on his face. He had won...

The difference between winners and losers is not whether or not you fall down. Everyone falls down sometimes. What makes winners is that they always get back up.