2 PETER/JUDE: STAND FIRM

Growing In Truth. Guarding The Faith. Living Ready.

Why Is God Taking So Long?

2 Peter 3:8–13

Key Thought: What feels like a delay to us may actually be God's mercy.

1. GOD DOESN'T EXPERIENCE TIME THE WAY WE DO

2 Peter 3:8 (NIV)
But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

- God is never pressured by the clock!
- We may not understand God's timing, but we can still trust His character.

2. GOD ISN'T SLOW; HE'S PATIENT

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)
The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness.

3. GOD'S PATIENCE IS GIVING PEOPLE TIME TO REPENT

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)
Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

- God's delay of judgment is an opportunity for repentance.
- Biblical repentance means stopping my defense of rebellion, surrendering to God, and following His lead.
- Grace doesn't excuse sin; it gives us time to repent.

Romans 2:4 (NLT)
Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

4. GOD'S PATIENCE WILL NOT LAST FOREVER

2 Peter 3:10 (NLT)
But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

- The uncertainty of the date should prompt readiness, not speculation.
- If you're ready today, you don't have to fear tomorrow.
- Since everything temporary eventually passes away, we should build our lives around what is eternal.

5. CHRIST'S RETURN SHOULD CHANGE THE WAY WE LIVE

2 Peter 3:11 (NIV)
Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?

- The purpose of prophecy is not just to inform our minds; it's to transform our lives.

2 Peter 3:11-12 (NIV)
You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

- Readiness means faithfully caring for what God has entrusted to us.

2 Peter 3:11-12 (NIV)
You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God **and speed its coming.**

- We don't wait for Jesus by sitting idle; we wait by faithfully doing what He has called us to do.

6. OUR FUTURE IS NOT DESTRUCTION; IT'S RENEWAL

2 Peter 3:13 (NIV)
But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, ***where righteousness dwells.***

- Christian hope is that God renews creation, not that we escape it.

7. WAITING FOR JESUS SHOULD MAKE US MORE FAITHFUL, NOT LESS INVOLVED

- Living for eternity doesn't make us less useful on earth; it should make us more faithful while we're here.

1. Where Have I Interpreted God's Waiting As God's Absence?

2. Who In My Life Needs The Mercy God Is Still Extending?

3. Is There Something I Need To Repent Of?

4. If Jesus Returned Today, Would I Be Ashamed Of Anything I Am Currently Doing?

- **God isn't slow; He's patient. The Day is coming. So live ready, holy, and hopeful.**