

Getting Right Results the Right Way

Life has a way of presenting us with situations that seem impossible to navigate. When problems arise and solutions feel out of reach, our natural tendency is to panic, make hasty decisions, or try to force outcomes. But what if the very thing we need most is the one thing we're least comfortable doing - waiting on God?

Why We Struggle with Waiting

The Pressure to Act Now

In our fast-paced world, we're conditioned to believe that immediate action is always better than patient waiting. When faced with challenges, we often hear voices - both internal and external - telling us we "have to do something" right now. But who says we can't wait? Sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is simply wait for God's direction.

When Good Opportunities Aren't God's Plan

Just because something looks like a great opportunity doesn't mean it's God's plan for your life. Remember, there was a tree called the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil - it had good on one side, but evil on the other. The Bible warns us that "there's a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is death."

Abraham and Sarah thought they had a good plan to fulfill God's promise of a child, but their shortcut caused tremendous problems. It's not enough to know what God wants you to have - you need to receive it the way God wants you to have it.

Understanding God's Character

God Is Never Panicking

One of the most comforting truths about God is that He's never in a panic. While we're frantically trying to figure out solutions, God already knows everything that's going to happen. He knew about your current situation before you did. He's not sitting in heaven saying, "Oh no, I didn't see this coming!"

Nothing Is Hidden from God

Isaiah 40:25-27 addresses our tendency to think God doesn't see our situation or that our problems have somehow escaped His notice. God asks, "To whom then will you liken me, or to whom shall I be equal?" He created billions of stars and knows them all by name. He knows every hair on your head and every detail of your life.

When we don't trust God, we're essentially accusing Him of being unjust, blind, or uncaring. But God is love - He can't help but love you because that's who He is.

Learning from the Israelites' Mistakes

Panic Leads to Missing God

The children of Israel provide us with numerous examples of what happens when we panic instead of pray. Every time they faced a crisis - no water, bitter water, no food - they panicked. If it weren't for Moses, who didn't panic but went to God in prayer, they all would have died in the wilderness.

Moses didn't go to God freaking out or treating God as if He didn't know what was happening. He had reasonable conversations with God, and God always provided exactly what they needed.

The Difference Between Prayer and Panic

Many people confuse panicked pleading with prayer. True prayer is communication with God that acknowledges His sovereignty and wisdom. It's going to Him in faith, not in fear. Prayer should be like an oasis - a place of escape where you get lost in God's presence and remember His greatness.

The Danger of Exchanging Truth for Lies

How Adam and Eve Lost Paradise

Adam and Eve had everything - perfect fellowship with God, a perfect environment, and clear direction. Yet when a snake presented them with an alternative to God's word, they chose to believe the lie over the truth. They exchanged their trust in God for trust in a serpent's words.

This pattern continues today. People can experience God's goodness repeatedly, but when faced with one challenging situation, they forget everything they know about God's character and choose to believe negative voices instead.

The Enemy's Persistent Voice vs. God's Still Small Voice

The devil is a "blabbermouth" who will keep talking even when you're trying not to listen. He's persistent, constantly trying to convince you of lies. God, on the other hand, speaks in a still, small voice. He gives you conviction that anchors and strengthens you, but He won't hound you or try to convince you.

God believes in you enough to tell you something once and trust that you'll do it. He treats you with the dignity of someone created in His image.

The Story of Jonah: When We Run from God's Plan

God Follows Us Even in Disobedience

When God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, Jonah decided to take a cruise to Tarshish instead. But even in Jonah's disobedience, God didn't abandon him. When the storm came and Jonah was thrown overboard, God had prepared a great fish to save him.

This shows us that even when we make wrong turns, God doesn't sit on the corner and watch us destroy ourselves. He follows us and continues to work in our lives.

Affliction Can Lead Us Back to God

Sometimes it takes difficult circumstances to get our attention. Jonah couldn't pray when he was running from God because he was in condemnation. But from the belly of the fish, he cried out to God with such depth that his prayer became prophetic.

When Jonah finally surrendered, God gave him the exact same message He had given him before - nothing had changed except Jonah's willingness to obey.

Practical Steps for Waiting on God

Acknowledge Him in All Your Ways

God's requirement is simple: "Acknowledge me in all your ways, and I will direct your steps." You don't have to perform strange acts or balance on one leg. Just acknowledge Him and wait for His direction.

Don't Move in Fear or Pressure

If something is pushing you, pressuring you, or trying to convince you with urgency, it's not God. God convicts, but He doesn't pressure. He gives you peace about the right direction, not anxiety about missing an opportunity.

Sometimes Waiting Is the Step of Faith

There are times when the most faithful thing you can do is absolutely nothing except wait on God. This isn't passivity - it's active trust. You're actively choosing to trust God's timing over your own urgency.

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you've been feeling pressured to act quickly or make a decision out of fear. Instead of rushing into action, commit to spending time in prayer, acknowledging God in that situation, and waiting for His clear direction.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Who am I really trusting in this situation - God or my own understanding?
- Am I moving out of faith and peace, or out of fear and pressure?
- Have I taken time to truly seek God's direction, or am I just assuming I know what needs to be done?
- What voices am I listening to - the persistent lies of the enemy or the still, small voice of God?

Remember, God is never panicking about your situation. He knew about it before you did, and He already has the solution. Your job is to acknowledge Him, wait for His direction, and

then move forward in faith when He shows you the way. Sometimes the greatest act of faith is simply waiting on the Lord.

Quotes

1. “Just because it’s good doesn’t mean it’s God.”
2. “God’s not interested in just getting us there fast—He’s interested in getting us there changed. He wants transformation in the process.”
3. “One thing you’ve got to know about God—He’s not in a panic.”
4. “God knew before you knew what was going to happen. He knows what’s ahead, He knows the whole future, and He’s already got it planned out. He’s not uptight about any of it.”
5. “When you panic, you miss God.”
6. “Every one of them would’ve died of thirst in the wilderness if it hadn’t been for a man named Moses—who didn’t panic, but went and prayed.”
7. “What some people call prayer is really panic. But Moses went and had a real conversation with God.”
8. “Aren’t you glad God already knows all your problems—even the ones you don’t know about yet?”
9. “When you already have the answer, it’s not really a problem anymore.”
10. “Prayer is a great escape—you step into His presence and get lost in the reality and the bigness of who He is.”
11. “We’re not going to move in fear. We’re not going to move in unbelief. We’re not going to move in doubt.”
12. “My Bible says the Lord acts for those who wait for Him. He acts for those who—wait for Him.”

13. “Sometimes, you just have to wait.”
14. “‘Who is equal to Me?’ says the Lord. ‘Who is equal to Me?’”
15. “Nothing is hidden from Him. Nothing escapes Him. He sees it all—and He never overlooks injustice.”
16. “You can’t please God while accusing Him of being unrighteous.”
17. “He doesn’t just love you—He *is* love. He loves because that’s who He is.”
18. “God really believes in you. Think about that—He invested everything to save you.”
19. “Sometimes the best thing you can do... is wait.”
20. “All you have to do is acknowledge Him, and He will direct your steps.”

Verses

1. Isaiah 40:25-28
2. Proverbs 3:6

Summary

Life often presents us with seemingly impossible situations that pressure us to act immediately. However, our natural tendency to panic and make hasty decisions can lead us away from God's perfect plan. God is never panicking about our circumstances - He knew about them before we did and already has the solution. The Israelites repeatedly made the mistake of panicking instead of praying, while Moses demonstrated the power of going to God in faith rather than fear. Sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is wait on God's direction, acknowledging Him in all our ways and trusting His timing over our own urgency.