

TRUSTING GOD'S TIMING IN YOUR LIFE

Tom Stoltz | December 2-3, 2023

When the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵ God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.
Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT)

What Jesus' Birth Tells Us About God's Timing

1. God doesn't tell us the timing _____ in advance

God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.
Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLT)

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority." Acts 1:7 (NIV)

2. God sees time _____ than we do

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.
2 Peter 3:8 (NIV)

3. God's timing is rarely _____ for us

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ³ All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born.
Luke 2:1,3-6 (NLT)

4. God can do _____ at any time

GOD: "...I am the Lord; in its time I will do this swiftly."
Isaiah 60:22 (NIV)

GOD: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Genesis 18:14 (NIV)

What Does God Want Me To Do While I Wait?

1. FRET NOT: _____

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.
Psalm 37:7-8 (NIV)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 1 Peter 5:6 (NIV)

2. FEAR NOT: _____

But I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God."
My times are in your hands... Psalm 31:14-15 (NIV)

3. FORGET NOT: _____

Blessed is the one... whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.
Psalm 1:1-3 (NIV)

4. FAINT NOT: _____

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

It's Always The Right Time For 2 Things:

• To _____ to God

Repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord... Acts 3:19 (NIV)

• To receive the _____ of Jesus Christ

Jesus gave himself to pay for the sins of all people. Jesus is proof that God wants all people to be saved. And that proof came at the right time.
1 Timothy 2:6 (ICB)

...Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation.
2 Corinthians 6:2 (NLT)

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2. FEAR NOT: Trust God

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My times are in your hands... Psalm 31:14-15 (NIV)

3. FORGET NOT: Study God's promises

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Talk-it-Over Notes | December 2-3, 2023

REVIEW IT

The Christmas story is a story of waiting—the world was waiting for a Savior, and God answered that need by sending his Son to earth at **just the right time** in history. Jesus' birth tells us many things about God, the master of timing.

- 1) God doesn't tell us the timing details in advance — All of the details would overwhelm us, and God wants us to trust Him one day at a time.
- 2) God sees time differently than we do — God has always been eternal and is not limited by time.
- 3) God's timing is rarely convenient for us — God's has a bigger and better plan, and it doesn't always align with what we are wanting or expecting.
- 4) God can do anything at anytime — God's timing develops our character as we wait on Him.

In the coming weeks of this series, we will study what God wants us to do while we wait: Fret not, Fear not, Forget not, and Faint not. But regardless of God's timing, it is **always** the right time to come back to God and to receive the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

*When the **right time** came, **God sent his Son**, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.*
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Spend some time in the Word: Read Matthew chapter 15

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What are you most looking forward to this Christmas season? Are there any details yet to be figured out? How has the timing affected your mood and attitude?
2. Waiting on God's plans can be challenging. When is a time that you acted in haste instead of trusting God's timing? How did this experience develop your character?
3. No matter what we are going through, no matter what we have said or done, it is always the right time to come back to God. Who in your life needs to hear this?

ACT ON IT

There is no better time than the Christmas season to take steps to repair or restore broken relationships. We, ourselves, received the saving grace of Jesus Christ at the right time. Consider who might to receive an offer of your grace at this time. It may not be convenient or even easy, but trust God to be there with you. Even if it is something small like sending a Christmas card or dropping off some cookies.

PRAY ABOUT IT

Thank God for His grace towards you that He showed at just the right time. Ask God for the strength to reach out and extend that grace to others.