

Looking For Immediate Results!

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By B. D. Tate

Why Immediate Results?

We have such a tendency towards expecting things to happen immediately! When we pray for healing, deliverance, wisdom, guidance, protection, direction, we often expect immediate results. We have a *fast-food* mentality that once we've prayed we should get fast results. It is like placing our order at the drive up window then expecting to merely proceed to the pick-up window to get our answers. This does happen God does answer immediately and sometimes results happen immediately (praise God!); however, this doesn't always happen and maybe for those of us just learning to walk by faith it doesn't happen often.

When we got saved and became born again how many of us had an immediate result? Some indeed the moment they prayed received God's presence with joy and knew God answered immediately. Many others, like in my case, didn't receive immediate results. I spent some time wondering if anything happened at all. It may have been weeks of swinging back and forth from trying to believe to fighting doubts and unbelief. Like a pendulum I would doubt anything happened when I prayed to feeling something of light and a faint joy deep inside. On one of those swings I decided that it wasn't just me that God really did come into my life and a growing peace began. Even though I had settled the issue over the next months and years I doubted again and again as my life and sin seemed to reflect otherwise. The point I'm addressing is that for some immediate results happen and praise God for that but for many others it was a slow growing process and realization of salvation—it was not immediately felt or experienced.

The question then becomes when did I get saved? Did I get saved when I actually prayed or when I actually received it weeks or months later? I would contend that I got saved when I prayed

but I didn't actually accept it, receive it, or experience the release of God's grace into my heart until faith reigned. If someone had taught me that God answers immediately and this idea of working through it, waiting, processing it until it is manifested is wrong—**I'd never been saved!**

Always Immediate?

There is an understanding from the Gospels and from the book of Acts that miracles and healings are *always immediate*. We'd have to admit that is what almost all accounts imply. There are a few cases where this is not the case. The man Jesus prayed for twice to receive his sight (Mark 8:22-26). The first time the man responded by saying, "I see men as trees walking..." Then Jesus prayed again and he received his complete healing. Why didn't it work immediately? Why did Jesus, the son of God, perfect in faith, have to pray again? Then there is the account of a man born blind whom Jesus spit and made mud and put it on his eyes (John 9:1-7). Jesus told the man to go and wash in the pool which was on the other side of the city. It would have taken some time to get there. Why didn't Jesus just heal him? Why did he spit and make mud to put on his eyes? Why did the man have to wait until he washed which would have been maybe a half an hour or forty-five minutes later?

Jesus had no sin, doubt or unbelief so that His faith was pure and perfect as any human being could possess. We are examining in Jesus a situation where faith was mature. Yet, in his own home town he was rejected and **because of their unbelief** he could do no miracles except lay hands on a few sick people and heal them (Matt. 13:58). God has limited Himself to his word and faith in his word.

Almighty God Has No Limits, Except Us!

If we were living in heaven right now I would trust that every need or prayer would be answered immediately. Since we live in a fallen and cursed world things are not aligned with God's

will. Jesus said to pray, “...*thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...*” **This means that God’s will is not being done on the earth and it is not manifesting here like it would in heaven.** In this world we have doubt and unbelief; we have rebellion and resistance to the things of God. The carnal man does not receive the things of the Spirit for they are against one another in purpose, agenda, and desire (I Cor. 2:14). The carnal man, lives by lust, fleshly desires, selfishness, what he/she can see, taste, hear, feel, or touch. The Spirit man lives by the Word of God and faith in God these are two different systems, values, and realms of power. The carnal man looks at the world and listens, enjoys, and engages along worldly lines; while the spiritual man looks at the unseen realm of the Spirit. He lives and abides in the eternal values and principles of God’s Word and does not look at the temporal things around us (II Cor. 4:18).

With the realities of this world, the familiarity of being brought up in it, doubts and unbelief having been planted in our hearts, should it be any wonder that we might struggle for faith? Should it be any wonder that our ability to grasp, see, and understand the Spirit might take some time? When our eyes and understanding are readily relying upon worldly signs and indications, our **faith will be set aside** often as it is challenged within our hearts for supremacy. The matter is of the heart. God sees our hearts and knows what is ruling within us. We are to fight the good fight of faith and guard our hearts for out it flow the issues of life itself (Pr. 4:23). From our hearts our mouth speaks and our imaginations flow (Matt. 12:34). We are to cast down all imaginations and arguments that exalt themselves against the Word of God and bring all thoughts into captivity of Christ II Cor. 10:5). This is not changed over night.

As I consider the doctrine (or insistence) that God always answers immediately, there are many times when we have prayed for wisdom, guidance, or direction. Some have received immediate answers while most in time **come to realize** God’s answer. In time, through meditation, seeking counsel, contemplating God’s will and Word; discovering the peace of Christ that is to lead and rule our hearts, we’ll come to the revelation of God’s answer. Why does it take time? There are many reasons some are obvious like being

confused about God's will or Word. Some have to do with the struggle to yield to God's answer. Some reasons rest in the counsel that could be contradictive. Doubts and fears play a part as our imaginations may run undisciplined within us. God answers our prayers but we may need **time to process through** our carnal thinking and get into the spiritual mindset of Christ to get it. Many simply do not recognize God's voice or identify the many ways He speaks to us. **If we are dependent upon immediate answers to prayer as God's only way then most of us would miss God altogether.**

God Has To Work Through Us!

We often need **reassurance and confirmation** of what God is communicating to us. Unfortunately we may proceed in some wrong directions before we grasp within us the right one. This is not perfect and mature faith but it is faith nevertheless. We have this grace given to us and the Holy Spirit poured out into our lives in this earthen vessel (II Cor. 4:7). We must do our part to receive and prepare the ground of our hearts for the seed of God's answer. There is a major principle in life called, "Seed, Time, and Harvest (Gen. 8:22)." We cannot expect to hear clearly if we are distracted by voices coming from others. We cannot expect to see clearly if we desire the wrong things too. Walk after the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Gal. 5:16). **For the flesh cannot comprehend the things of the Spirit we simply will not get the memo.**

God is gracious and full of mercy waiting for us to get in line and on board. He is not slack in His promises towards us but waits patiently for us to get it.

2Pe 3:9 **The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise,** as some count slackness, **but is longsuffering toward us,** not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

If we only embrace immediate answers or results then we are going to miss a lot. God's provisions are provided for in His grace towards us; yet, he has limited himself to His Word and to processing it through this fallen world. God cannot manipulate human beings in order to give us instant answers to prayers. Time and space are real obstacles and must be dealt with in delivering answers in prayer. For example if my daughter asked us for a new car the likelihood of her getting that car immediately is very near impossible. However, if we decided that we'd answer her request by saying yes, we certainly do not mean immediately. There will be some time and space for us to provide that car. God of course is Almighty yet he still must deal with time and space to answer our needs. **It may take some time for a job position to open up, for funds to process through the financial systems, for the right car to become available, for people to cooperate and for circumstances to get in line.** We may think that God has unlimited resources in this world; yet **God has given dominion of the earth to men** (Ps. 116:15). Have you noticed that a lot of what goes on here is not according to God's will? That would mean there are many obstacles of disobedience, rebellion, and not to forget demonic obstructionism.

God's answer is according to His word and if we prayed in the same nature as Christ would pray **we have been authorized to believe that God answered that prayer** (Mark 11:24). We are to have confidence that God hears us when we pray according to his word and if He hears us we have those petitions (I John 5:14). Why is this so? It is because we are finally asking for the things God wills us to have and has provided for in Christ. We are asking for things God already wants us to have! It would be like our daughter asking if she could eat dinner with us when mommy already provided the meal with her in mind. The answer will ALWAYS be yes!

If we believe that God's answers only come immediately then we're going to have problems believing God because those answers come in time.

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and **you will have them**.

Mark 11:18 "... they will lay hands on the sick, and **they will recover**."

Jame 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And the prayer of faith **will save** the sick, and the Lord **will raise** him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Matt. 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things **shall be** added to you.

Future Fulfillment As In Starting Now But Taking Time

Theses verses speak about a future fulfillment of the promise. There are conditions that must be met and James warns us NOT to ask anything of God in doubt.

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, **with no doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

If our daughter after receiving from us a promise to get her a new car decided after some time that the car was not coming, that we'd lied to her, or she threw a temper tantrum because we weren't moving fast enough, that would have an affect on the outcome of our performance. We'd likely have a conversation and if we didn't come to terms or reconcile we'd probably stop the process of getting her a new car. If however, she came to her senses and apologized from her heart, believing we are doing all we can, then

as parents we'd pick up the process again. What it comes down to is the relationship and the heart.

The scriptures exhort us to hold on, remain steadfast and believing; God is not going to forsake or leave you **nor let you down** (I Cor. 15:58; Heb. 3:14)! In time God's answer will manifest but stay in faith trusting, believing and overcoming unbelief. When Noah was told to build the ark **he processed and waited** for one hundred and twenty years! When Moses knew that God was going to use him to deliver his people **he had to wait** nearly forty years. When Abraham was promised Isaac both he and Sarah were past human strength to perform it; yet Abraham believed God and waxed in faith **considering the promise of God for over a year**. When Jesus told the disciples to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit **they had to wait almost forty days**.

Count it all joy when your faith is tried and it will be (James 1; I Pet. 4:12). What we cannot do is turn our doubts and unbelief **towards God and accuse or let go of God's promise**. What we need to do is wax strong in faith **continuing in the mindset that God cannot lie** and what He promised he will do. The right mindset: "My God has never lied to me and I will not believe my doubts or my unbelief but cast them down!" We should **turn on the lying vanities** of this world that are in opposition and rebellion towards God's promised will coming to pass.

Jonah 2:8 Those observing *lying vanities* their own mercy forsake. (Young's Literal Translation)

We should speak to the mountain that is in the way and command it in the name of Jesus to be removed (Mark 11:23). We often speak to God about these mountains when God has told us to speak directly to those things that are hindering the answers to our prayers.

We must also realize that we are in a war and the forces against us need to be dealt with either through binding them in being able to prevent God's answers from coming or by loosening the angels of God to speed its coming (Matt. 16:19). **We need to pray that God shows us what is delaying our answers too**. We can pray in the Spirit and receive the revelation of what needs to be

said or done to break through this world's resistance. Our weapons are not carnal but spiritual and strong in the Lord and able to break down every stronghold that may be arrayed against us (II Cor. 10:4).

At the same time we must examine our own hearts to see if there is any selfishness in us that is causing our impatience. **Maybe we have a mountain of unforgiveness in our life that is blocking God's answer!**

We've grown up in a fast-food society and the idea of having to wait can be an exercise in character. We can begin to rant and rave or quickly loose heart because we didn't get it when we demanded it. God is after our hearts and character matters. I started to say, "count it all joy" when our faith is tried and tested because the end result is conformity to Christ. We shouldn't be surprised if our faith is attacked, fought against, being disparaged, or discounted by the enemy of our souls; especially if it is coming through carnal Christianity or unbelievers.

If we gain trust, confidence, and faith that God's promises are greater in reality (yes and amen II Cor.1:20) and God will do what He says no matter what things or symptoms look like we become a great threat to the god of this world. **Our faith is precious in God's sight and He has limited His almighty power and promises to our hearts response to Him in this world.** We can limit God because we don't believe him and remain in doubt about His word. We can limit Him because we loose heart and don't believe He'll fulfill His promise to us. Jesus rebuked the disciples for having had a hardened heart towards him (Mark 8:17). Jesus rebuked the disciples for not holding onto what they'd heard and seen in Him. **If we must see immediate results from God every time we pray we are setting ourselves up for failure.**

We will be tempted to not believe and not hold on; but, we are to let the peace of Christ rule and the Word of God dwell richly in our hearts (Col. 3:15 & 16). What pleases God is faith and faith knows God's will because it knows God's Word. We are spirit beings dealing with God who is Spirit and who is love. Love never fails. We can trust and believe and exercise true faith in God to receive **how ever long it takes.** Amen.

Most if not all times God answers immediately but seed, time, and harvest, the fallen world, situations, people, and demonic obstruction, as well as our own heart's condition, hinder the results from happening sooner. We can limit God by our doubts and unbelief; we can hinder God's ability to answer by not taking authority in this realm in speaking to the mountain in Jesus' name (Mark 11:23, 24). We must realize that the Holy Spirit works through us according the power that works *in us*:

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works in us,**

We are walking with the greatest being there is and there is none like Him. We must realize that God's answers do not reflect his impotence but **reflect his grace and mercy working with us in this fallen world.** As long as the earth remains there is seed, time, and harvest.

A Short Sighted Phenomenon

When we must wait sometimes we forget about what we are waiting for. We may have asked months ago (or even years) with all of our hearts for something only to get busy and forget about what it was. When it shows up and we start enjoying the use and the blessing of it sometimes we forget to thank God for it. **It is amazing how many times God has answered our forgotten prayers and how often we have not praised and thanked him for them.** I have sometimes been so dull as to receive that blessing and *think that it came by chance* and then turn to God and say "Well, forget that prayer I got one."

On the other hand, we can praise and thank God right now for answers to prayers that we haven't seen manifest yet. We can be Biblically proactive before we see them, receive them in our hearts and praise and worship Him for answering them. We can do this because we have been *authorized to believe* our prayers are answered if we prayed them according to His will. We are

exhorted to give God praise and thanksgiving before God answers because by faith we believe it is done.

Ps 31:7 I will be glad and rejoice in your mercy, For You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities,

Isa 25:9 And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this *is* our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This *is* the LORD; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

Joe 2:21 Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice, For the LORD has done marvelous things!

Ps 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *And* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.

Ps 107:22 Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, And declare His works with rejoicing.

Ps 116:17 I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, And will call upon the name of the LORD.

Conclusion:

This takes a great deal of pressure off of us as we realize that God's answers don't always come immediately. We don't have to expect immediate results and then become **sense conscious about answers to prayer**. We need to be fixed, rigid, and unmoving in our faith that stands on God's promises ALONE. **Faith that receives in time isn't faithless.** We can see from scripture that God's answers MANIFEST sometimes immediately and sometimes over a period of time if we hold fast in trust. We can relax and take God at his word not having to expect mountains to move in moments. Many of God's saints waited patiently for

God to deliver, restore, provide, fulfill, heal, and fill with His Spirit—not wavering but waxing strong in faith. **Faith continually feeds on God’s faithfulness resting in His Sabbath rest until the fulfillment of answered prayer.**

Ps 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and **feed on His faithfulness.**

1Pe 1:13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and **rest your hope fully upon the grace** that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Heb 4:3 **For we who have believed do enter that rest**, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,'" although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.