

Reading: John 11:1-45

***“We know all things work together for good to those who love God,
who are called according to His purpose” (Rom 8:28)***

News reached Jesus that His friend Lazarus was sick. Anyone else would have at once hurried to the spot to help his friend or perform a miracle if he could. But not Jesus. “He stayed two more days in the place where He was” (Jn 11:6). We know it was a purposeful delay, because later He told His disciples, “I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe” (v 15).

Had Jesus visited Lazarus immediately, the miracle would have been one of healing. Now because He delayed, the family could have a greater miracle—resurrection! Divine delays are not denials. They are meant to develop us and the situation so we may better comprehend His ways.

Praise God for instant healings. But the undeniable fact is that most of the healings are delayed and gradual. Almost all the healing miracles of Jesus in the Gospels were instant. But there is no one like Jesus who walks in perfect obedience and submission to the Father. As such God has not entrusted any other man with such power. Our acceptance or otherwise of this fact does not alter it.

Biblical patience is not rooted in fatalism that says everything is out of control. It is rooted in faith that says everything is in God’s control (Rom 8:28). There’s no place for faith if we expect God to fulfil immediately what He promises. Patient endurance is a condition to receive what God has promised. “You have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise” (Heb 10:36). “Do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (Heb 6:12).

The Book of Psalms abounds with testimonies of deliverance that David experienced when he waited patiently. “I waited patiently for the Lord...He brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock” (Psa 40:1; 62:1).

A German proverb says, Patience is a bitter plant but it bears sweet fruit!

*Trust on, trust on, believer! Though long the conflict be,
Thou yet shalt prove victorious; Thy God shall fight for thee.
Trust on! Trust on! Though dark the night and drear;
Trust on! Trust on! The morning dawn is near! (Eliza A. Walker)*

MAY 27

PRAYER

Subject: Patience

Reading: Jn 11:1-45

Memorising: Rom 8:28

Gracious Heavenly Father,

We worship You as the God of patience. You never act in haste because everything is under Your supreme control. Though You are displeased with our every sinful act, You do not send Your judgment immediately. Forgive us, O Lord, for mistaking Your patience for tolerance of evil. Have mercy on us, O God!

We are sorry, Lord, for the confusion we create in our family, workspot and ministry because of impatience. How coolly Jesus handled critical situations because He knew that You are in absolute control! Help us, O God, to stay put until You bring us out from night to daylight. By trying to bail ourselves out, we only further complicate the problem. We pray that we would cultivate patience in our life as the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Father God, let us not repeat the mistake of Abraham who adopted a fleshly method without waiting sufficiently for the fulfilment of Your promise for a son. Let us not repeat the mistake of King Saul who dared to offer burnt offering yielding to the pressures of people against Your commandment. Forgive us, O God, for the words of impatience that we often pour out. We give place to anger because of impatience and hurt people. We pray that You put a guard for our mouth that we be slow to speak and still slower to sneer.

Give us, O Lord, the patience of a fisherman or a farmer in the ministry of soulwinning and evangelism. Give us the patience of a mother or a father in bringing up the new entrants in the Church. Save us from the prevalent instant-result mentality. Help us take time to patiently wait on You for guidance and renewal. Help us not to lose heart over delayed answers for our prayers. Yes, Lord, those who wait on You shall never be ashamed. Help us stay submitted under Your mighty hand so You may exalt us in due time.

We pray for those whose faith is failing because of prolonged suffering. We pray for the spouses of the broken marriages due to impatience. We pray for those who are not able to recover from the loss caused by hasty action. It's never too late for You to perform a miracle, O Lord. You are a God of second chance.

We give You all praise and honour. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

*(Eccl 8:11; Joel 2:13; Jn 13:3; Gal 5:22,23; 2 Cor 4:6; Gen 16:1-4;
1 Sam 13:11,12; Js 1:19; 5:7; Psa 141:3; 1 Pet 5:6; Isa 49:23)*