

Reading: Acts 16:6-14

*“Only in returning to Me and waiting for Me will you be saved.  
In quietness and confidence is your strength” (Isa 30:15)*

God is never in haste because all things are under His sovereign control. This knowledge will keep us from panicking. Abraham’s impatience brought forth Ishmael. The perfect will of God therefore gave way to His permissive will. Till today the descendants of Ishmael are wild against the chosen people of God (Gen 16:11,12). It is folly to expect instant results just because we walk in the will of God. A “little while” in divine economy may mean anything between one day and one thousand years. Once we know what we are doing is the perfect will of God, we must stay put — “living by faith” (Heb 10:38). We must not bail ourselves out by means of our resources. God allows crises in our lives not to break us, but to make us; not to destroy us but to develop us. He is out to improve the quality of our lives. Today is World Standards Day!

Tucked in the Faith Chapter of Hebrews is an illustrated report of the godly women of old: “Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection” (Heb 11:35). Our sickly modern theology has taught us that healing alone is blessing. But what about the blessedness of death that ushers us into the literal presence of God? Just because we walk in obedience to the Lord, everything will not become clear to us. Questions may abound, but no doubts!

While we should not go ahead of God due to impatience, we must also not lag behind due to indolence. Why would God reveal His will to a slothful man who will do nothing about it? Apostle Paul calls slothfulness as foolishness. According to him, only those who redeem the time are wise enough to understand the will of God (Eph 5:15-17).

When the apostles were busy with reaching every possible place with the Gospel, they were forbidden to preach the Word in Asia. When they tried to go into Bithynia, the Holy Spirit would not permit them there also. But they kept going and ended up in Macedonia where they got their first European convert! It is always difficult to turn the steering wheel of a parked car!

*O let me hear Thee speaking in accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me to **hasten** or **control**;  
O speak and make me listen, Thou guardian of my soul !*  
(John E. Bode, 1816-1874)

Gracious Heavenly Father,

We worship You as the Sovereign Lord. Everything is under Your control. Nothing happens without Your knowledge. You know when to do, and what, and for and through whom. You are the Most High and Almighty. You are never in haste because You know the end from the beginning. Dear Lord, forgive us as we forget this eternal truth often in our lives and mess up things. Help us to be quiet and stay confident on You. Your eyes are upon us. Your hands are holding ours. You are ordering our steps and stops. Your presence before us is guiding us. Your presence behind us is guarding us. Your presence above us is governing us. Thank You, Lord, thank You, Lord!

Father God, thank You for Your grace which has saved us when we put our faith on You. Help us to also walk by faith and live by faith. Save us from the push of the modern world that prevents us from patiently waiting before You. Sorry, Lord, many times we are giving You orders instead of getting orders from You. Forgive us our foolishness resulting from our intellectual arrogance. Help us boast of Your wisdom, not our knowledge. Help us boast of Your strength, not our stamina. Help us boast of Your resources, not our riches.

Dear Lord, thank You for the Book of Psalms which exhorts us again and again to wait on You. We are defeated before the enemy because we didn't wait enough before You to renew our strength. We are ashamed many times before our opposers because we didn't wait enough before You to build up confidence through Your promises. We have messed up matters because we didn't wait on You enough to get your counsel. Father God, help us learn from these failures and become wiser and stronger to face the challenges ahead. Restore to us the losses incurred in our lives and those of others because of our hasty actions. Stop us, O Lord, from committing such blunders in future.

Father God, there are also times when we are too lazy and slothful to move on with You. Help us walk with You and run with You according to the wind of Your Holy Spirit. May His fire enable us to be ever fervent in spirit. Sorry, Lord, for wasting hours and years because of laziness. Give us the spirit of Jesus who worked briskly with the awareness of the forthcoming night of darkness. Help us to be on our tiptoes to finish Your job before He returns.

In His Name we pray, Amen!

*(Job 42:1,2; Dan 4:34,35; Isa 40:29-31; 46:10; 58:8; Psa 27:14; 31:24; 32:8; 37:34; 121:1-8;  
Ex 33:14; 2 Cor 5:7; Jer 9:23,24; Eph 5:14-17; Jn 9:4; 17:4)*