

GOD IS NOT SLOW AS SOME COUNT SLOWNESS

I. 2 Peter 3:1-14

A. 2 Peter 3:1-14 (ESV) Written by the one who denied Jesus three times but who was restored by Christ Himself; the one who recognized *Who* Jesus was before anyone else; the one called to shepherd God's flock and feed His sheep; this one, like us, whom Jesus said He would build His church upon; Peter writes: **1** *This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, (Ever have to remind your kids?)* **2** *that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, 3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers (ancestors) fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." (Scoffers: 'Same ol same ol!')* **5** *For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, (God created all this!)* **6** *and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. (And He destroyed all this once already!)* **7** *But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, (OV patient on your account) not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. (Think transformation not annihilation, like resurrected bodies rising from dust and ashes.)* **11** *Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace.*

B. In the midst of all the calamities, terrorism, and wars, many ask, "*Where is God?*" Numerous local folks we know and love are going through difficult trials and tribulations and some may wonder, "*Where is God?*" Some ask mockingly as they don't believe He even exists. Others believe He possibly exists but now takes a *hands-off* approach towards His creation. Others believe He exists, is definitely involved, but they wonder if God should be charged with tardiness.

C. Some folks think God is way too slow. Or they think He's late. And if He's slow or tardy, they wonder if He's weak, apathetic, or cruel. Do you think this? Is He slow in answering your prayers because He's incapable? Should God adjust to our anemic ways of thinking or should we adjust to His? Who's the Potter and who's the clay in all of life's scenarios? We are the original claymation people. Remember--*Davey & Goliath* and *Gumby & Pokey*? They are us!

D. Not just in the ultimate promise of a new heaven and earth, but even in everyday life and the trials therein, *God is not slow as some count slowness.*

1) We may consider Him slow or late because He's not on our time table.

2) We may consider Him weak because He didn't intervene the way we asked. *'He helped that one girl get better but He let my loved one die!'* *'My neighbor got a bail out while I went bankrupt!'* *'My less-talented teammate got to start and I got benched!'* *'Lazy Lonnie got the promotion and I got the demotion!'* *'I voted for the good guys but the bad guys won the election!'*

3) We may consider God incapable or even cruel because someone we love has suffered long and hard and our prayers seem to be ignored. Meds and treatments and therapies have proven ineffective. How much intercession is necessary?! How many tears must I shed?! What more must I do to get my way in the matter at hand?! Certainly we know better than God--don't we?! My opinion on Facebook matters--so why doesn't God *LIKE* my opinion?

4) We may consider God unjust because we see injustice going unpunished. Driving to work we're passed by reckless maniacs but we get caught in a speed trap on the way home from a funeral! The drug dealers down the street always avoid jail and yet I just got audited by the IRS! My neighbor faked his disability and get's a government check every month while I work like a dog and can't make ends meet! God is so unfair! Maybe I could do better! (*Or maybe not!*)

E. But the truth is, God is not slow. He is never late. He is not weak or incapable. God is not cruel and does not enjoy suffering. God is not unfair or unjust. He knows exactly what He's doing! He knows better than you! He loves people far more than you! No one is getting away with anything! There's purpose in all that He allows! Even if death is the outcome, for those in Christ, death brings gain!

F. God is so just, He allowed His Son, Jesus Christ, to bear the penalty for our sin on a cruel and bloody cross! God loved us so much, He sent His Son to be the atonement for all our transgressions and iniquities, the sacrificial substitute for our trespasses, moral failures, and all that separates us from fellowship with Him! God is not slow as some count slowness--He's always right on time! Romans 5:6 (NLT) says: **6 *When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.* Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT) says: **4** *But 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.* (God was certainly punctual where it mattered most! The same is true where it matters least!)**

G. Considering all your life and all its inherent ordeals, is God worth waiting for? Or is He too slow? Tardy? Absentee? Incapable? Uncaring? Cruel? Isaiah 64:1-4 (NLT) is a prayer we should all pray: **1 *Oh, that You would burst from the heavens and come down! How the mountains would quake in Your presence!* **2** *As fire causes wood to burn and water to boil, Your coming would make the nations tremble. Then Your enemies would learn the reason for Your fame!* **3** *When You came down long ago, You did awesome deeds beyond our highest expectations. And oh, how the mountains quaked!* **4** *For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like You, who works for those who wait for Him!* **God is always worth the wait!****

* Close with Prayer...

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[2 Peter 3:1-14 \(ESV\)](#)

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[Romans 5:6 \(NLT\)](#)

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[Film Clips & Other Links](#)

Slow? Thank God For It! - Travis Zimmerman - Speak My Word Ministries

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcVF-Pe89N4>

God Works for Those Who Wait on Him - John Piper (Full Sermon)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6t-iFeVavw>

The Fruit of Patience - Article by R.C. Sproul
<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/fruit-patience/>

Davey & Goliath - "The Family of God"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CT59BZZYovA>

Millersport Covenant Church Sermon Podcasts (MP3s on iTunes)
<http://millersportcc.com/feed/podcast>

Bonus Stuff

Isaiah 40:28-31 (Amplified)

28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become tired or grow weary; there is no searching of His understanding. **29** He gives strength to the weary, and to him who has no might He increases power. **30** Even youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, **31** but those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] will gain new strength and renew their power; they will lift up their wings [and rise up close to God] like eagles [rising toward the sun]; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not grow tired.

Psalms 27:14 (Amplified)

14 Wait and hope for and expect the Lord; be brave and of good courage and let your heart be stout and enduring. Yes, wait for and hope for and expect the Lord.

Psalms 37:7 (Amplified)

7 Be still before the Lord; wait patiently for Him and entrust yourself to Him; do not fret (whine, agonize) because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.

Psalms 123:2 (VOICE)

2 Just as the eyes of servants closely watch the hand of their masters, just as a maid carefully observes the slightest gesture of her mistress, in the same way we look to You, Eternal One, waiting for our God to pour out His mercy upon us.

Psalms 130:5-6 (ESV)

5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; **6** my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

Isaiah 30:18 (NKJV)

18 Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you; and therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him.

Romans 8:24-28 (ESV)

24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. **26** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27** And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. **28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

Luke 12:35-40 (ESV)

35 Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, **36** and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. **37** Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. **38** If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! **39** But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. **40** You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Quote by Charles H. Spurgeon

"If the Lord Jehovah makes us wait, let us do so with our whole hearts; for blessed are all they that wait for Him. He is worth waiting for. The waiting itself is beneficial to us: it tries faith, exercises patience, trains submission, and endears the blessing when it comes. The Lord's people have always been a waiting people..."

Quote by Kay Arthur

"Where do you run for help? When you are in trouble, what is your first instinct? Do you run to others or to God? Is it usually the counsel of another rather than the counsel found in waiting upon God in prayer? Why is this the way it is? Why do we run to man before we run to God?"

Quote by F.B. Meyer

"Fall on your knees and grow there. There is no burden of the spirit but is lighter by kneeling under it. Prayer means not always talking to Him, but waiting before Him till the dust settles and the stream runs clear."

Quote by Charles H. Bent

"A man must not stop listening any more than praying when he rises from his knees. No one questions the need of times of formal address to God, but few admit in any practical way the need of quiet waiting upon God, gazing into His face, feeling for His hand, listening for His voice."

Quote by G. Campbell Morgan

"Waiting for God means power to do nothing save under command. This is not lack of power to do anything. Waiting for God needs strength rather than weakness. It is power to do nothing. It is the strength that holds strength in check. It is the strength that prevents the blundering activity which is entirely false and will make true activity impossible when the definite command comes."

Quote by G. Campbell Morgan

"Waiting for God is not laziness. Waiting for God is not going to sleep. Waiting for God is not the abandonment of effort. Waiting for God means, first, activity under command; second, readiness for any new command that may come; third, the ability to do nothing until the command is given."

Quote by G. Campbell Morgan

"Those who wait for God are pilgrim souls that have no tie that will hold them when the definite command is issued; no prejudices that will paralyze their effort when in some strange coming of the light they are commanded to take a pathway entirely different to that which was theirs before; having no interests either temporal or eternal, either material or mental or spiritual, that will conflict with the will of God when that will is made known."

Quote by E.M. Bounds

"The goal of prayer is the ear of God, a goal that can only be reached by patient and continued and continuous waiting upon Him, pouring out our heart to Him and permitting Him to speak to us. Only by so doing can we expect to know Him, and as we come to know Him better we shall spend more time in His presence and find that presence a constant and ever-increasing delight."

Waiting in Faith

Ligonier Ministries

<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/waiting-faith/>

When Abraham arrived in Canaan, it was by no means a great nation. But he dwelt there, living in tents. God may have prepared a mansion for him in heaven, but in Canaan all he had was a tent. The only parcel of Canaan he ever actually owned was his burial plot.

Most importantly, Abraham waited. This is perhaps the hardest test of faith. Unrealized expectations make for bitterness and despair in many people's lives. But Abraham waited in faith, just as God later required of the prophet Habakkuk, when He said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry" ([Hab. 2:2-3](#)).

Abraham waited in faith and died in faith. With the rest of the Old Testament saints, it was said: "And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us" ([Heb. 11:39-40](#)).

Coram Deo

Do you have a good testimony of faith? Have you learned to wait in faith for God to move on your behalf?

Passages for Further Study

Habakkuk 2:2-3

Hebrews 11:39-49