

Lifelines

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Topic: Waiting

Wait!

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Do you find it hard to wait for a good thing? So you just jump into action to do it, or acquire it? What is your success rate? How many of those rushed decisions tend to backfire?

Granted there are some scenarios that require immediate action, like regaining control of that Dubai jetliner that was nose-diving to destruction this past week. While the pilot was fighting for his life after being stabbed, was not the time to sit down and think about what to do. Heroic people jumped into action without thinking about their own safety and saved the day. Good thing they didn't decide to have a committee meeting!

But most of our decisions don't involve a do-or-die scenario like that. It's the waiting that we find most difficult; waiting for more information, waiting for time to pass, or waiting for a clear direction. Biblically, the word "wait" means to intertwine, thus for us to work in concert with God in making decisions and taking actions that He wants to accomplish in any particular scenario. Many times waiting is a part of God's formula for success, but it's hard to take the time to thoroughly work through all the particular ramifications of a decision, before making the decision. Usually we just want to make a decision and worry about the fallout later.

In the 1600's, a now famous French physicist, mathematician, and philosopher Blaise Pascal, stated: "One half of the ills of life come because men are unwilling to sit down quietly for thirty minutes to think through all the possible consequences of their acts." Most human-created destructiveness is done by thoughtless people, filled with self-agendas without giving any consideration to the cascading negative consequences that are set in motion by their own impulsive self-centered choices and agendas. They give no acknowledgment to God's role in the decision. They are blind to how many people it will wound, and mostly don't care if it does wound others. They are blind to the presence of the Living God, who also has His own plans to implement in each scenario. They look not at the negative impacts their decision will bring, nor upon whom the destructive consequences will come.

One of the most difficult challenges for every human is to wait and seek God's will and direction in any particular matter. It is difficult to search out what God wants me to do in this or that decision, to intertwine our thoughts, desires, and decisions with Eternal God, who wants the best for all the people involved in the decision. It is difficult to delay our gratification in order to receive a much greater and satisfying end, when God Himself gives us what we need, when God personally gets involved to meet our needs. But this takes effort, self-denial, humility, and yielding our desires and plans to align with God's designs and plans.

Wait for Him! Intertwine your life with God's by praying: "Lead me in Thy truth and teach me, for Thou art the God of my salvation; For Thee I wait all day long" (Ps. 25:5 NASB). "Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for Thee." (Ps. 25:7). "Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD" (Ps. 27:14).

Isaiah 40:31(NASB95), gives us God's personal promise to those who seek Him, His will, and His purpose. "Yet those who wait for the LORD, will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run and not get tired; They will walk and not become weary."

Sometimes I used to use a two column list in making decisions. Column 1 is the positive results of the decision, and Column 2 is the negative results or by-products of the decision. This helps me become more thorough and thoughtful. You can include the positive secondary outcomes of each positive thing on the list, and even the negatives secondary outcomes of each positive on the list. Even good decisions that lead to good results, may have some side-effects that are difficult. But at least one can decide if the hardships or difficulties are worthwhile, in light of overall success.

I created a little definition of wisdom, which states: Wisdom is doing *what* God tells us to do, *when* God tells us to do it, and in the *way* that God tells us to do it. Then leave the results and outcome to God. Wait before you decide; then decide what God wants done. Then confidently do it, to the glory of the Lord!

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