

**October Series:
God's Waiting Room
Lesson Four:
God Uses Delays for Our
Good and His Glory**



“Don't just stand there, do something. While God often says to us: Don't just do something, stand there.”

**A delay is a period by which
something is late or
postponed.**

**Scripture Lesson: Exodus 13:17 (NLT),
When Pharaoh finally let the people go,
God did not lead them along the main
road that runs through Philistine
territory, even though that was the
shortest route to the Promised Land.
God said, “If the people are faced with
a battle, they might change their minds
and return to Egypt.”**

**Scripture Lesson: Deuteronomy
8:2, Remember how the LORD your
God led you through the
wilderness for these forty years,
humbling you and testing you to
prove your character, and to find
out whether you would obey His
commands.**

**When God wants to take you
somewhere, He may take you on
the long path instead of a shortcut.**

“God is more interested in your development than your arrival. He cares more for your character than your comfort, your purity than your productivity.”

Three Ways God Uses Delays In Our Lives:

1. God Uses Delays to Prepare Us.

**God uses delays to get us ready
for those difficult times that we are
going to face during our journey.**

2. God Uses Delays to Test Us.

Deuteronomy 8:2, Remember how the LORD your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether you would obey His commands.

**God uses delays to test how we
will respond under pressure and to
test our loyalty and obedience to
Him.**

3. God Uses Delays to Train Us.

God uses the delays to break worldly habits and thought patterns and train us in His way of thinking and doing things.

**Exodus 20:20, "Do not be afraid,"
Moses replied. "For God has come to
test you, so that the fear of Him may
be before you, to keep you from
sinning."**

**The best thing to do when you are
in God's waiting room is be patient
and let God do His work in your
life.**

1 Peter 1:6-7 "For a little while you have had to suffer great and all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

Sometimes God will lead you through the wilderness. Our response determines how long you stay in the wilderness.

“Your test of maturity is how well you handle the delays in your life.”

Four Things to Avoid When Experiencing A Delay:

1. DON'T FEAR

The problem with fear is that it keeps you in the wilderness, in the desert and barren stages of life. It prolongs the delay.

**Fear causes the delays in your life
and keeps you from moving ahead.**

Isaiah 41:10, Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Isaiah 41:13, For I am the LORD your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you: "Do not fear, I will help you."

2. DON'T FRET

**Psalm 37:7, Rest in the LORD
and wait patiently for him: fret not
thyself because of him
who prospered in His way,
because of the man who bringeth
wicked devices to pass.**

Eccl. 3:11, *God has set the right time for everything.*" God's timing is perfect.

3. DON'T FAINT

"If only" and "go back" are phrases that are tell-tale signs you are discouraged -- that you are fainting, losing heart.

Psalm 27:13-14, I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Galatians 6:9, Let us never grow tired of doing what's right, for if we do not faint, we'll reap a harvest at the right time.

Luke 18:1, Men ought always to pray and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31, But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

4. DON'T FORGET

Psalm 103:1-5 (NKJV), Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 106:21-22, They forgot the God who saved them, who had done great things in Egypt, miracles in the land of Ham and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

**“God’s delays are not His
denials.”**