

Waiting For Your Due Season
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Have you ever noticed that so much of life is about waiting? We wait in lines to make a purchase, to get our FAST food – which seems more like slow food sometimes, we wait to do our banking, to get married, to get a raise, to buy a new house or a car.

We wait to have a baby, then we wait for them to grow up and leave the nest.

We wait at the doctor's office.

We wait in traffic.

We make a phone call and wait on hold.

We email someone and wait for an answer.

We schedule a vacation and wait for it to get here.

We wait for God: to answer our prayers, show us our destiny, reveal His presence and perform our miracle.

Much of life is about waiting!

We are in a series titled “Miracles – When Heaven Touches Earth”

Today is the last message in the series.

The title of my sermon is “Waiting For Your Due Season.”

Sometimes it seems like all we do is wait. Maybe you're still waiting for God to perform a miracle. You've waited in the past, you're waiting in the present and you'll wait in the future.

Waiting is a part of life, it always has been and it always will be. However, God promises that we won't have to wait forever. Galatians 6:9 tells us:

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Notice that Paul tells us not to grow weary in doing good. In other words, we are not to give up. We're to continue doing good. We're to continue to pray, continue to worship, continue to believe, and continue to wait for our miracle.

Too many times we want to stop... but it's in our faithfulness that God is able to bless us. Just think about that. What if you did give up? What does that get you? Probably nothing. The only sure way to fail is to give up. But your due season will come... If you don't give up.

You see there is a due season when you will reap what you have sown.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 tells us that there is a due season for everything.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Everything in all of life has a specific time, and a due season.

So just what does due season mean?

In the Amplified Bible it means in due time and at the appointed season.

In The New Living Translation it means at just the right time.

The word due means - something that rightfully belongs to you or something that is owed or expected to happen. The word season means - a special period or a time characterized by a particular circumstance or feature. So, if you put these definitions together a due season is - a special period of time or an appointed time when we receive that which we have expected, that which is owed us or rightfully belongs to us.

Remember Galatians 6 said that in due season we will reap. Well, in order to reap we must first have sown seed. You must have a sowing season before you have a reaping season. You're only fooling yourself if you think you will reap without sowing. Galatians 6:7 says

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

Your due season is about reaping what you have sown. For example: When a farmer plants a seed in the ground he expects "in due season" to receive whatever he planted. If he planted corn he would get corn, if he planted apple seeds he would get apples, if he planted watermelon seeds he would get watermelons.

And that seed of faith that you planted - that you've prayed for, believed for and waited for. You will reap what you sow.

That dream you prayed over, the one that God gave you. That you spent countless hours working on, that you have invested your life and finances into...those seeds will produce. That dream will come true. You will reap what you sow.

That person that hurt you. The one that you forgave. You just made a deposit of forgiveness in your heavenly bank account. Someone is going to show you the same forgiveness. You will reap what you sow.

You will have what is owed you and what is rightfully yours...in due season as long as you're asking according to God's will.

Listen to this amazing story about sowing and reaping.

In 1981, Dr. Michael Shannon, a pediatrician, saved the life of a 3.2 pound premature baby boy named Chris Trokey. Doctors only gave the baby a 50/50 chance of survival. But Dr. Shannon helped save his life, staying with the infant around the clock until he was stable.

Thirty years later in 2011, that same pediatrician was in a car accident. Firefighters pulled the doctor from his vehicle. Dr. Shannon spent 45 days recovering in the hospital. It was after this that Dr. Shannon discovered that one of the firefighters that saved his life was Chris Trokey, the same child he had saved thirty years ago. The doctor saved the baby and the baby saved the doctor. But notice this doctor waited 30 years to reap what he sowed.

Think about Moses. Moses was 80 years old when God called him to deliver Israel. He waited 80 long years for God's timing.

God could have made David king the moment he was anointed. Instead, David waited 20 years to be made king over all of Israel.

God could have freed Joseph from prison soon after he was imprisoned. Instead, he waited at least 2 years before he was set free.

God could have given Abraham the son He promised him when he was still young. Instead, He made him wait until he was 100 years old.

Jesus could have healed Lazarus when he was still alive. Instead, He waited 3 days after Lazarus was dead and then He raised him from his grave.

Moses waited 80 years for His destiny.
David waited 20 years to be King.
Joseph was in a prison for at least 2 years.
Abraham was childless for 100 years.
Lazarus was dead for 3 days.

God could have answered these prayers much quicker, but He didn't. He made them wait instead. And He often makes us wait too.

So much of life is spent waiting, YET many of us still haven't figured out how to wait. Psalm 37:7 tells us how to wait.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him.

The Hebrew the word "wait" here means to writhe in pain.

It's translated in the King James Version as – to bear, to bring forth, to fall grievously (with pain), hope, sorrowful, travail, be wounded.

It's obvious from this definition that waiting isn't much fun. But this definition paints an interesting picture of waiting. I want to break this into three parts.

First, it tells us that waiting can be painful, sorrowful and grievous. Sometimes the pain is so intense we feel like we can't take it. Maybe we feel wounded by it. Like when we're waiting for a child to be born, or a relationship to be restored, or a loved one to be healed or a promise of God to be fulfilled. Waiting hurts.

Secondly, waiting means to hope. That means that in our pain and grief, we wait, without losing hope. We bear the pain and sorrow but we refuse to lose hope. Habakkuk 2:3 says

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.

Thirdly, if we stay in hope we will experience the final part of waiting which is to bring forth the awaited promise. Waiting means - to bring forth as in giving birth. Waiting gives birth to new life, the relationship is restored, the loved one healed and the miracle fulfilled.

Yet as humans it seems hard for us to wait. The world tells us we shouldn't have to wait. We're a high speed internet, microwave, HOV lane, express line society that doesn't want to wait.

Like why wait to buy something when you can charge it on a credit card?
 Why wait at a restaurant when you can just get fast food?
 Why wait for marriage to live together when you can live together now?
 But God's plan very clearly involves waiting. Psalm 27:14 says

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

You see there are reasons God makes us wait. First of all, waiting reveals what's really in our hearts.

Mary and Martha were good friends of Jesus. However when Jesus didn't show up in time to save their brother Lazarus, Martha accuses Him of taking too long. Listen to John 11:21

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

God rarely does things in our timeframe, and if we're not careful we can end up accusing God of being uncaring or letting us down. We end up questioning God's timing.

But God is never late. He is always on time. And He waits just long enough to show us what's really in our hearts.

If we truly trust God, and believe His word, and believe He knows what's best for us, and believe His timing is perfect, then we won't accuse or question God when we have to wait.

If He's making you wait, there is a very good reason for it.

If He's telling you "no" maybe He has something better for you.

If He's not giving you victory today, maybe it's because you will have a greater testimony tomorrow.

Think about the Apostle Paul. He was one of the most faith-filled people alive. He prayed three times to have the thorn in His flesh removed. But God didn't remove it. Instead, God told him His grace was sufficient.

It's not always easy to understand why God doesn't do certain things the way we think He should. In Acts 1:6-7 the disciples asked Jesus

"Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority."

We might not like it, but it's not for us to know the times or the dates. Only God knows. But one thing is for sure...God always has our best interest at heart and His timing is perfect.

I want you to know I'm not preaching about something I haven't experienced. Pastor Joe and I have waited for a lot of things but the one thing that we're still waiting for is our land and a building.

We believe God spoke to us that GFC would have land and a building. Many of you have given your hard earned money to help us fulfill that vision. And we thank God for you. Yet after many years we still don't have our land and building. So here's what we think about that.

It is not for us to know the times or the seasons. In our due season we will have our land and building. In the meantime we will continue to trust God, to believe, to wait and to give faithfully. And we ask you to do the same.

You see either God is in control or He isn't. We believe He is. So we're going to wait on Him and trust that His timing is perfect.

And here's the best part. As we wait on God, He is doing a work in us that can only be done as we wait. And that's a good thing. So as your pastor's we want to ask you to wait with us, believe with us, and trust God with us.

You see just because we're having to wait doesn't mean we missed God or that we did something wrong. I just mentioned all the saints that waited on God.

And there's one thing I can promise you. We're not going to move unless God tells us to. No matter how tired we are of waiting on God we won't take one step without Him leading us. We've seen too many churches get ahead of God in buying land and a building. They got tired of waiting and ended up getting in over their heads financially and had to close the church.

Think about Abraham and Sarah: They got tired of waiting for the child God promised them so they decided that Abraham would have a child with his servant Hagar. The result was Ishmael. The Bible says Ishmael, was a wild donkey of a man whose hand was against everyone and everyone's hand was against him.

This was not God's plan but Abraham and Sarah became impatient, and decided to do things their way instead of patiently waiting on God.

You see we pray for patience but then we don't want to wait. I have to constantly tell myself that God is going to answer my prayer. Hebrews 10:36 says:

For you have need of patience, that, after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise.

I'm reminded of Daniel. Daniel's prayer was answered the day he asked, but he waited three weeks for it to reach him. Just because God doesn't immediately show us the answer doesn't mean that He hasn't answered. Daniel 10:12 says

Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

This is why we should never give up. In Luke 18:1

Jesus told His disciples a parable to show that they should always pray and never give up.

When should we pray? Always!

When should we give up? Never!

Jesus went on to say that there was a judge that did not fear God or care about people. In that same town was a widow who kept coming to the judge for justice. For some time he refused to help her because he really didn't care. But eventually – because she wore him out – he saw that she got justice.

Now listen to Luke 18:6-8 –

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly..."

The point is if we keep praying God will honor our persistence. Don't give up just because you don't see anything happening today. Sometimes God is moving even though we can't see it. Something is always happening in the spiritual realm. God will not keep putting you off. Eventually He will answer.

So I declare today that you will have your due season in God's timing!
Your due season will come and not delay.
You have prayed and fasted!
You have cried out to God.
You have believed God's Word and declared God's Word.
You've been broke too much, sick too much, discouraged too much, and defeated too much.
In due time you will have more than enough.

Things have been rough.
The waiting has been tough.
But in due season God will say "ENOUGH!"

You will possess your blessings.
I call in your blessings from the north, south, east and west.
In due season your blessings will overtake you.
You will have peace and no one will make you afraid.
You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you. God will look on you with favor and make you fruitful.
You will still be enjoying last year's harvest when you have to make room for the next one.
Your due season is coming so conceive it, believe it and receive it.