

Coach House Church

BEACONS

NEVERS

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Never.

It's the word that can stir the deepest fear in the bravest heart.

"I'll never find a job." "This will never get better."

"I'll never get married." "I'll never have the child I long for."

"He'll never come home to me."

It's the lie that originates with our sinful nature, and it insists on putting a decisive end to all of our hopes. Don't bother to dream, it whispers cruelly. You don't deserve it. Stop wishing for what can never be.

And so we continue to drive the nails into the coffin of our dearest longings.

"The Lord will never answer my prayers."

But this is the challenge of waiting on God. It's the ability to keep hoping when the nevers of life bombard us—when the minutes, hours, days, and years tick away without any answers to our most passionate pleas at the throne of grace. It's the faith to hang on to the Father on the long road when human reason tells us to give up.

If the nevers of life are discouraging you, if you've waited for the Lord to fulfill His promises to you, if you wonder why God has allowed such a lengthy delay in answering the deepest cries of your heart—if that's where you are, friend—then listen on.

If you look, you'll find meaning and hope in these times of waiting on the Lord to respond. Though you don't see Him working, you can know for certain that He is because He guarantees that He "acts on behalf of the one who waits for Him" (Isa. 64:4).

Not only that, but the Father has an awesome plan for you—purposes that are fantastic, perfectly suited for you, and that will give ultimate meaning to your life. However, God also has a very specific schedule—one that's often vastly different from what you'd expect, may have you wait far beyond what makes you comfortable, and most likely will make you feel that all earthly hope is gone so that you'll rely solely upon Him (2 Cor. 1:9).

The only “never” you should really focus on is that God will never let you down (Deut. 31:6, 8). So whatever it is you yearn for—no matter how long you have to wait—you can trust the Father to lead you. And you can know for absolute certain that He has your very best interest in mind.

So how do we survive the Wait With Courage..?

Continued delays can be disheartening, especially when circumstances don't go your way or your burdens become too heavy to carry.

Most likely, we've experienced heartbreaking occasions before—devastating disappointments that have robbed us of the last of our strength and resolve.

The days, weeks, months, and sometimes years go by without any answers to your prayers. The illness, financial difficulty, conflict, loneliness, uncertainty, or need persists. You struggle, feeling the overwhelming temptation to give in to utter despair and fall back into destructive habits.

There's nothing that can plunge you into the darkness of despair like a prolonged season of waiting. But this is when you must determine to wait on the Lord with courage. The quality that enables us to endure suffering, opposition, and the challenges of life with a steadfast and fearless confidence in God's provision and protection is courage. And it's your courage that's stretched and refined in your darkest and most painful times.

Courage is a state of mind that's absolutely essential for the child of God to triumph. When everything looks bleak and there's no hope in view, we should fearlessly continue to trust that the Father is in complete control. We shouldn't give up or quit because we have faith the Lord is still good and has wonderful plans for our lives.

So how do we stay on track with His purposes for our lives when everything seems dark and you feel desolate? How can you bravely take hold of the truth that God will take care of you and lead you through? Remember that ... God is with you. He knows exactly where you are and what you're facing—and He's walking with you, providing for and protecting you along the way.

We must remember we are in a spiritual battle (Eph. 6:12). We have a real enemy who strikes at the core of who we are. But how does he do that? Through what you think and believe (2 Cor. 10:4-5). There's no more effective time for the devil to discourage and torment you than when you're waiting on God. He knows exactly how to pinpoint the most painful, vulnerable places in your life and lead you to despair. But through Jesus' example in Matthew 4, you can resist the devil's disheartening lies with courage and the powerful truth of Scripture.

As Andy said today at Church - we must Stand Firm, resolute, rooted and determined, be strong in our Faith .

You must express thanks to God, regardless of what happens (1 Thess. 5:18). You must give thanks in every situation and delay you face, courageously trusting in the One who will ultimately bring you through.

Take courage—there's a limit to the delays and sufferings in your life. They will only continue as long as is necessary for God to accomplish His purposes in you (Ps. 138:8). If you'll remain courageous and faithful, trusting God to guide you through the difficult seasons of your life, then He'll do amazing things in and through you. And He'll move you from despair to the wonderful place where all of His promises for you are fulfilled.

God is working on your behalf, even though His plans for you take time. My prayer for you is that you'll learn to anticipate His answer—no matter how long it takes—and to do so faithfully, patiently, and joyfully. You've invested so much time, energy, prayer, and confidence into waiting for Him, it would be a shame for you to abandon your hope now ... especially when you're on the brink of blessing and when His answer for you is closer than ever before. So don't ever give up!

Be assured God's actively, powerfully, wisely, and lovingly arranging the circumstances of your life. Even though His activity may not be obvious to you, He's drawing you closer, refining your character, teaching you His ways, and fulfilling His promises to you.

First Corinthians 2:9-10 teaches, "Eye has not seen and ear has not heard ... all that God has prepared for those who love Him."

In other words, you may not be able to imagine all that the Father's doing in and through the days, months, and years you've been seeking Him, but it's absolutely amazing. And if you wait for Him with expectant endurance—directing your focus to Him, purposefully seeking His will through Scripture and prayer, actively claiming His promises, and courageously facing adversity with faith—you'll certainly see the fruit of your obedience.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will NEVER leave you nor forsake you."



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