

When That Day Comes

Whether you're seeking an answer to prayer or expecting a miracle, when you put your faith and trust in God, you can count on results. The day will most assuredly come when your labor in prayer and patience will produce fruits. The question you must ask yourself right now is—will you be prepared for the blessing?

"*Wait mode*" is a term that we've coined to define the period between making a prayer request to Heavenly Father and receiving this same request into manifestation. You might think of it along the lines of baking time for your favorite dessert. Following this train of thought, consider the prep work involved for all the stages of cooking this yummy fav. From the very beginning stage of gathering the essential ingredients all the way down to the final stage of letting the dessert cool, one stage of preparation is no less important than the other. All of them—the beginning, middle, and end—are very necessary for the expected result.

In the beginning phase of cooking, one must become familiar with the recipe. Parallel this with the recipe for success and blessings that God has given us through His Word. Just as you wouldn't think of skimping out on the most important ingredients of the dessert, you can't skimp out on the most important ingredients of faith either.

The most important ingredient of faith is to believe. Hebrews 11:6 says "*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*" Faith requires that we #1 believe that God exists, #2 believe that He is a rewarder, and #3 believe that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.

God is not hiding from us, so to "*diligently seek Him*" as it says in Hebrew 11:6 doesn't mean that we have to literally search for Him in the cracks and crevices of the universe. Neither does it mean that we are to diligently say the same things over and over again until we feel we have His attention; we always have His attention. He is everywhere-present, and He knows what we're going to ask for even before we ask it. So what does it mean to "*diligently seek God*"—it means that we give Him first place in our lives.

Life can be so complicated sometimes. The grind can cause us to fall into the habit of going to God only when all else fails. This does not give Him the honor and reverence that He is due. Anything glorious deserves glory. Anything worthy of praise should be praised. God is good all the time and all the time God is good! He is supremely glorious and worthy of praise! He deserves all the praise and honor we could possibly give Him...and a w-h-o-l-e lot more. He is preeminently deserving of first place in our lives. When we give ourselves over to that reality

we will literally feel the transition in our circumstances. In other words, the stove will be at the right temperature for baking.

To seek Him diligently is to say *"I don't understand what's going on, Lord, but I know You have my back. I know You'll carry me through. I'm treading waters I've not tread before, and I'm in unfamiliar territory. So I'm going to praise You in the highest, talk to You often, and place all my trust in You, because I believe that this is the very best course of action I can take for my life."*

This is a tremendous and right attitude of prayer. The Father knows that you may be a little scared or troubled about what to do and how to do it. He also knows that you have some stuff going on that holds you back. That's why you've got to be conditioned to deal with things masterfully and spiritually, so that you are prepared to receive the thing you've prayed for.

Not only do you have to be conditioned, but you've got to be transitioned to the point of being fully persuaded and sold out in faith. You must have a commitment to the legacy of love that Jesus Christ left behind. The love within your heart must demonstrate that you know beyond all uncertainty that God will answer your prayer. When the devil comes at you through a person or circumstance, let your faith be rock solid; cause if it ain't rock solid without the blessing you're praying about, then it surely won't be rock solid with it.

We come to God as we are and lay our requests before Him, but we must understand that we can't expect to leave the same way we came. Prayer is a privilege. It's an honor to go before the throne of God. It's also a honor to expect that He hears us. We must also understand that whatever we pray for—whether it's a husband, a child, a friendship, a job, a new house, restored health, or anything else—it will require more of us in our walk with Christ than what we've demonstrated before. Any answered prayer will expand our territory, and as such, we must make room in our souls for the receipt of it.

Reading—studying—familiarizing yourself with the recipe informs you of what is required and what can be expected. You can then gather all the necessary ingredients with confidence. Before long, you'll gain a knack for which spices work together and which ones do not. For instance, you'll know that pepper and sage will not produce a great cake, just as resentment and pride will not produce a blessing.

Those who lack finesse in the kitchen will overlook these intricate details. They won't know what it takes to make a dish perfectly suited for their taste buds, but when it comes to your prayer requests you can't afford to overlook a thing. You must be captivated by all stages of preparation, because you can't go higher without them.

Perhaps you've been waiting for God to elevate you from one position in life to another. You may have been at your job too long. You may have been meeting the wrong type of men—one right after the other, or there could be instances where you feel desolate and empty within yourself and have no idea how to change things around for the better. Realities such as these are red flags for change, and God knows it. He knows that you've outgrown this level and He is helping you to get prepared for the next one.

Will you be prepared for the blessing? If you understand that NOW is your preparation time, then you most certainly will. It's your time to prove yourself strong on the Lord's behalf. It's your time to condition yourself for increase by reading, studying, and familiarizing yourself with God's recipe for faith and righteousness. So keep seeking Him with diligence, and rest assured that soon the day will come when you will sit at the table, fork or spoon in hand, ready to feast upon the desires of your heart.