

**Pt. 4 - DELAYED BY DESIGN**  
**Everything is Possible With God**  
**Pastor Vernie Fletcher**  
**Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013**

**Exodus 13:17 (NIV)**

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt."

## **God uses delays to prepare us**

## **God uses delays to test us**

**Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV)**

Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

## **What To Do While Waiting**

### **1. When you're in a delay ...DON'T FEAR**

**Deuteronomy 1:26,28 (NIV)**

<sup>[26]</sup> But you were unwilling to go up; you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God.

<sup>[28]</sup> Where can we go? Our brothers have made us lose heart. They say, 'The people are stronger and taller than we are; the cities are large, with walls up to the sky...'

**Instead of Fear –  
focus on God's presence**

**Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)**

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

**2. When you're in a delay ...DON'T FRET**

**Numbers 21:4-5 (GN)**

"...On the way the people lost their patience and spoke against God and Moses. They complained..."

**Proverbs 19:2 (GN)**

"Impatience will get you into trouble."

**Instead of Fretting –  
trust God's timing**

**Psalms 37:7-8 (TLB)**

<sup>[7]</sup> Rest in the Lord; wait patiently for him to act. Don't be envious of evil men who prosper.

<sup>[8]</sup> Stop your anger! Turn off your wrath. Don't fret and worry--it only leads to harm.

**Ecclesiastes 3:11 (GN)**

"God has set the right time for everything."

**3. When you're in a delay ...DON'T FAINT**

**Numbers 14:2-4 (GN)**

"All the Israelites grumbled against Moses... `If only we had died in Egypt! ... We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.'"

**Instead of Fainting –  
be persistent and pray**

**Galatians 6:9 (NIV)**

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

**Luke 18:1 (NJB)**

Then he told them a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart.

**Isaiah 40:31 (TLB)**

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

**4. When you're in a delay ...DON'T FORGET**

**Psalm 106:7-8, 13 (NIV)**

<sup>[7]</sup> When our fathers were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea.

<sup>[8]</sup> Yet he saved them for his name's sake, to make his mighty power known.

<sup>[13]</sup> But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his counsel.

**Instead - What have you been forgetting about God, how He's helped you so many times?**

**Psalm 103:2 (GW)**

Praise the LORD, my soul, and never forget all the good he has done:

**2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)**

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

**Habakkuk 2:3 (TLB)**

But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!