

April 17th - 23rd

Good Things Take Time

In this lesson you will learn three ways God develops good things in your life.

Intro: In this day and time people like to receive instant results and immediate feedback. This is why many people become frustrated and cannot handle the process of faith. Sometimes in scripture a sudden event or occurrence happens. Even the sudden events took a long process leading up to them. In the process of waiting, God is up to something behind the scenes. It's part of God's nature to develop great things over time. It takes a progressive or an evolving faith to see the promise fulfilled. God could have created the whole Earth in one second. Instead, he stretched it out over seven days. In other words, good things take time.

I. Celebrate the Progress

- A. Can you celebrate that it's good before it's done? God didn't wait for creation to be completely finished before He celebrated it as good (Gen 1:12). God ended each day with a statement of celebration in every step of the process. Stop putting pressure on yourself and others for stuff to be done before you say it's good. Whatever you may be facing may not be finished, but you can still acknowledge God's goodness in the process. The process of faith takes time, and God is developing you into something beautiful.

II. Faith can be Painful

- A. Your breakthrough hinges on your obedience to God, which hinges on your faith in God. Faith is tied to your obedience. Obedience is not always easy. In fact, many times obedience can be difficult or painful. Your level of pain tolerance will determine whether or not you reach your full potential and receive all of God's promises. Every promise of God is activated by your faith. During these times of conditioning faith God is testing our strength, endurance, and our attitude. Do not give up or lose heart during these times where God is testing your faith. At the end of your testing, there is a great reward for you to receive (Heb 10:35).

III. Trust in God

- A. God requires us to trust Him in the process. We must let go of our own way and allow Him to control the situation and the outcomes. Open your heart for God to move in His way not the way we want it. Don't let the enemy discourage you or distract you from the promises of God. Faith and hurry do not mix. Situations will not resolve on our timeline. Do not put a due date on God's promises. Even when you can't see God moving in your behalf, or feel anything changing for you, continue to trust God. Half the battle of the fight of faith is in your mind. So, keep believing and expecting God to fulfill his promises to you. God is true to His promises (Psa 89:34).

Discussion Questions

1. What situation in your life can you celebrate the progress?
2. Have you ever found obedience in faith to be painful?
3. Can you trust God's character when you don't see the outcome you want?