



ABUNDANT LIFE GOSPEL CHURCH
69, IJU ROAD, AGEGE, LAGOS
SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY
MAY 2019

TOPIC: DELAYED ANSWERS TO PRAYERS

STUDY II: FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYED ANSWERS

TEXT: HABAKKUK 1:2

INTRODUCTION:

From our last discussion, we discovered that a delayed answer to a prayer is often an alignment to God's purpose and timing. However, there are other factors that are responsible for delayed answers to prayers.

In this study, we shall examine these factors and see our responsibilities as children of the Most High God whenever we experience delay in answers to our prayers.

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAY - DISCUSSION SESSION:

Prayer is a powerful medium through which we communicate with our heavenly Father. By divine design, the prayers of saints are meant to be answered (Matthew 7:7), but there are times when answers to our prayers seem delayed. On such times, the following factors should be addressed:

- ❖ **PRAYING AMISS:** Praying amiss could lead to delayed answers to prayers. To pray amiss means:
 1. To pray with wrong/selfish motive - James 4:3. Selfish prayers do not carry weight in the spirit. Do not pray because you want to prove a point or terrorize someone with the answer to your prayer. The Lord granted the request of Solomon immediately because his request was motivated by the needs and demands of the kingdom - I Kings 3:9-12. God loves kingdom-oriented prayers. Search your heart today. God looks beyond words and actions but searches the motives/heart/thoughts - Proverbs 16:3.
 2. To pray contrarily to the word/will of God - I John 5:14-15. It is clear from this Scripture that God hears when we pray according to His will. Before you present a request to God, ask yourself if the prayer is in line with God's word. Be well schooled in the scriptures. Before praying, search out scriptures that validate your request, learn to pray God's word back to Him.

❖ **UNBELIEF/DOUBT -JAMES 1:6-8, HEB. 4:16**

Doubt often postpones answers to prayers. As children of God, we are expected to approach God with boldness in the place of prayer. This boldness is simply the boldness of a full assurance of faith. The miracle of the Canaanite woman (Matt. 15:22-28) would have been delayed until after the resurrection of Christ when the gospel would go beyond the wall of Israel, but her unshaken faith brought a future miracle to the present.

❖ **INIQUITY AND FILTHINESS OF THE HEART - PSALMS 66:18, MATT. 5:8**

It takes purity of heart to see God even in the place of prayer. Repent of every known sin, receive mercy from the Lord and then you will be fit to see Him as you pray.

❖ **TEST OF FAITH AND CAPACITY BUILDING - EXODUS 13:17-18**

Sometimes, God takes us through the longer route (delay) in order to test our faith and also prepare us for greater days ahead. God intentionally led the Israelites through the longer route in order to prepare them for battle.

❖ **SPIRITUAL CONTENTION - DANIEL 10:12-13**

Just like the experience of Daniel, several times, we experience delay due to spiritual contention. This is the reason you must increase your prayer and faith intensity to keep pressing on. You don't want to lose to the devil, do you? In I Thess. 2:18, Paul shared with us how he was hindered by the devil.

CONCLUSION:

For whatever reason, moments of delayed answers to prayer are not moments that you should give in or fold your hands. They are times that you need to strengthen yourself, go on your knees and press on.