



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

**TOPIC:** DELAYED ANSWERS TO PRAYERS  
**STUDY III:** WHAT TO DO WHEN ANSWERS ARE DELAYED  
**TEXTS:** HABAKKUK 1:2 ACTS 12:13-16

**INTRODUCTION:**

Moments of delayed answers to prayers are not meant for folding of hands, staying indifferent or giving in to fate. They are moments to build capacity and keep pushing. Such moments of delay are inevitable in life as we progress in our pilgrim's journey. In today's study, we shall be looking at what we are expected to do as children of God when answers to our prayers are being delayed.

**WHAT TO DO - DISCUSSION SESSION:**

As children of God, certain attitudes are expected of us when answers to our prayers tarry. These attitudes involve:

➤ **ASK QUESTIONS:**

God is not just a prayer answering God; He is equally a question answering God. In Psalms 2:1, David asked why the heathen were raging. In Judges 6:13, Gideon asked why the enemies were prevailing against them and why they were not seeing the miraculous deeds of God as their fathers had seen. When prayers are delayed, don't assume that one thing or the other is the cause. Ask God to speak to you about the situation. The "ask" in Matthew 7:7 is equally applicable to questions.

➤ **GROW:**

In Ezekiel 21:27, the Bible tells us that God will continue to overturn until we come. This "coming" does not just mean a mere arrival but it connotes coming up to maturity. In Gal. 4, the Bible reveals to us that until an heir comes of age, he cannot take his inheritance. There are things which you have prayed for which are rightfully yours but God will never give them to you until you are mature enough for them.

➤ **MAINTAIN A JOYFUL SPIRIT:**

Psalms 2:4 tells us that he that sits in heaven will be laughing even when the heathen are raging. Ephesians 2:6 shows us that we are the ones sitting in

heaven. This means that we must always be joyful even in adverse situations or times of delayed answers to our requests.

➤ **BE PATIENT:**

Patience is a great virtue and it is an attribute of them that believe - Isaiah 28:16. It takes faith along with patience to obtain the promise - Heb. 6:12.

➤ **CONTINUE TO KNOCK - ACTS 12:13-16.**

After his release from the prison, Peter went to Mary's house and knocked. Instead of opening the door, the people inside were arguing that it was Peter. Then the Bible says, "*Peter continued to knock*". When you knock again and again according to Matt. 7:7 and there is no response, what should you do? You need to continue to knock. Peter continued to knock with an assurance that he was at the right place knocking the right door. He knew that sooner or later, the door would be open and it was eventually. The place of prayer is the right place for you to knock. As answers seem delayed, just keep knocking.

In Exod. 24:16, Moses went to the mountain in response to God's instruction. Mountain here connotes the place of prayer. God never gave him a syllable for six days, yet Moses remained there trusting that someday, God would attend to him, and eventually God spoke to him on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. Colossians 4:2 admonishes us to *continue* in prayer. A praying Christian is not someone who just prayed but someone who continues to pray. The real work of prayer lies in the continuation. Never stay quiet on God as a result of delayed answers to your prayers - Isaiah 62:6-7.

**CONCLUSION:**

Don't assume for God that your request is not His will. That will be a lazy way out. Just keep pressing on and don't give up on God. Doing these will not only bring answers but they will equally please God and weaken the devil. It is not over until you win.