The Fleshly Agony of Waiting Upon the Lord

BY PERRY STONE

There are several Scriptures that allude to the fact that individual believers will be required to exercise extreme “patience,” in the time of the end.

The word patience is penned 34 times in 35 verses throughout the New Testament. With the exception of five references, the Greek word is the same: hupomone, and refers to “the ability to endure; to be consistent in waiting for something.” If you have ever had to wait for an extended period, without knowing the outcome of a situation, then you know that patiently waiting for long seasons can be an agonizing process. If patience is absent, especially if you have not received a word from the Lord that you can “stand on,” while waiting for an answered prayer it magnifies that agony.

I recall in 2017 at my yearly check-up in West Virginia, Dr. Thompson viewed a report from a scan, informing Pam and I that they had found a tumor the size of a quarter on the back of my brain, that was possibly causing the dizziness, headaches and discomfort I had been experiencing. The announcement was at first a shock, but after praying and settling down I felt a sense
of peace that, The Lord already knows all about this and He is not surprised! Further testing was required and this is where the power twins of the Christian walk, “Faith and patience,” were needed, despite the sense of inner peace, mental darts from the enemy would strike me with negative images and flashes of a possible pre-mature death. It was a bit agonizing (in the flesh) waiting for the second series of tests, to see if the tumor was malignant. Thankfully the tumor then, and at this point, has no signs of cancer.

WHY MUST WE WAIT?

God can and often does answer prayers immediately. When a sinner seeks forgiveness, there is not a throne room meeting for angels to take a vote to see if the candidate for salvation is “worthy” enough to have their name penned in the lamb’s book of life! The moment we believe and confess we are saved (Rom. 10:10). Many times, a prayer for healing is instantly answered and a physical manifestation occurs in the body of the seeker. However, when praying for others needs or the salvation of a family member, months or years may pass without any visible evidence that these lost souls are even interested in eternal life. Why at times must we wait for extended periods before we experi-

ONCE GOD’S PROMISES ARE ENGRAFTED IN YOUR HEART, YOU MUST NEVER GIVE UP IN THE NIGHT WHAT GOD SHOWED YOU IN THE LIGHT!

enced the joy of answered prayer? Often the answer is linked with the mystery of the timing of God.

I want to give you several examples of my own “seasons of waiting” and what I discovered related to God’s timing in each situation.

WAITING SEASON 1: FOR THE MANNA- FEST TELECAST TO LAUNCH

In February 1988, at the Zephyrhills Church of God in Florida, during an all-night prayer meeting, at 3 o’clock in the morning, I heard the audible voice of the Lord say, “Manna-fest!” He told me this would be the name of my future television program. At the time, I did not own cameras, editing equipment or a studio, so I knew this was a prophetic word for a future ministry outreach. It was twelve years later, in 2000, when we were preparing to launch Manna-fest on our first station in Monroe, LA. Now we prepare seventy tapes each week for stations to reach America and the world. For eighteen years the weekly telecast has reached millions of viewers and has led thousands of lost souls into the kingdom of God! The moment I heard this word from the Lord, why did I wait that long, and not just immediately purchase television equipment? First, we did not have the money for the expensive equipment. Second, we did not have a building that could be used for an effective studio. Third, we had no one on staff experienced with television, editing, taping, and so forth. Lastly, we did not have the inside contacts with stations to negotiate costs or program time slots.

THE REASON FOR THE WAIT

It required twelve years for all four situations to be settled and doors to be opened for a weekly telecast. In the early 1990’s, I had appeared on Christian stations as a guest speaker, and most stations used my prophetic videos as gifts to supporters during their telethons. This gave us both favor and stations contacts to later purchase the television air time. We constructed a large studio at the VOE offices. My office manager, Charlie Ellis, taught himself television production, lighting and editing, and as stations purchased our videos the finances eventually became available to assist us in launching Manna-fest. God’s timing was perfect and by building relationships with station owners and managers, we developed a special “pay in advance” strategy, saving the ministry income in the process. Manna-fest is now in the top ten rated television programs on the TBN network.

WAITING SEASON 2: THE BIRTH OF MY DAUGHTER

Around 1988-89, I dreamt a marvelous dream in which I saw two small girls; one was a bit older than the other. One spoke up and told me she was the daughter I was going to have and that her name was Amanda. When I awoke, I told Pam she would become pregnant and we would have two girls. Pam did become pregnant and the child turned out to be a boy—Jonathan Gabriel Stone. Because Pam was traveling with Jonathan, we felt it would be very difficult to live in hotels with two children, as Jonathan was being home schooled often in a hotel room.
until age 11. At age 39, I told Pam we were supposed to have the little girl I saw. After experiencing a miscarriage, Pam conceived again and a little over eight months later, we were holding the little girl I saw in our arms named Amanda.

THE REASON FOR THE WAIT
I have teased that faith without works is dead and it requires human effort to conceive a child! Only the Lord knew that He would in my latter years instruct me to assist in spiritually fathering a generation of youth. If Amanda would have been born ten years earlier, she would be 26 today. Being born when she was, was ordained by the Lord. She is 16 and a strong leader among the youth! She relates to this generation and is also a great help to me personally in assisting me to flow in various areas to reach this generation. This again demonstrates that God's timing for His will to be performed is always perfect.

WAITING SEASON 3: BUILDING AN INTERNET SCHOOL
In the late 1990’s, one year before the tech bust, I was approached by a business man desiring to use our books and resource material to build an on-line Bible School. He had contacted several financiers who said they would financially support the project. As we met and discussed the possibilities, the tech bubble burst, the Stock Market fell and the plans were put on hold and later cancelled. It would be twenty years later, when the ISOW Internet Bible School would be launched, reaching every nation in the world.

THE REASON FOR THE WAIT
Through this I discovered that your plans may be the will of God but your timing may be off. A pre-mature vision will end in a blur of confusion, unless you hide what you know is coming in your heart for a future occasion. Several years ago, when Dr. Bryan Cutshall entered the scene with a prophetic word that he would start a Bible School “with a Stone,” I knew the set time had come to build the foundation for the internet Bible School. At the same time, the Lord opened the door to purchase the T.L. Lowery Building for the ISOW offices and has provided us with a great technical team gifted in building necessary computer programs. Twenty years after an initial door closed, God gave both Dr. Cutshall and I years for more research, studying, ministry knowledge and experience along with the finances required to launch a worldwide Bible School. With new and advanced technology, those with computer access living outside of the United States can purchase courses in their currency and be taught the deep truths of God’s Word. We were not so much waiting upon God to start this Bible research school as much as God was waiting for the technology to be in place to reach the world!

WAITING SEASON 4: BUILD A GATHERING PLACE
Several years ago, when the Lord spoke to me to “Father a generation,” and, “to build a gathering place for a generation,” I immediately began looking for land on which to build a large facility to accommodate youth and ministry events. There were 16 acres for sale just off the interstate at the main Cleveland exit where eight hotels were located.
The owner was a close pastor friend and we sat down to discuss our ministry purchasing the property. Title deeds were searched and lawyers were hired to proceed with the process. As we came near an agreed settlement, the Lord spoke to me in prayer that the property was not large enough to do what He had planned, including a future youth camp. I cancelled the deal much to the disappointment of the sellers but knew I had made the right decision. When I asked the Lord, “Why didn’t you tell me not to purchase the property earlier,” He immediately spoke to my spirit saying, “You weren’t listening. You were too busy to slow down and listen to my direction.” Soon thereafter, I found property across the railroad tracks from VOE that now houses the OCI ministry center and accompanying buildings!

**THE REASON FOR THE WAIT**

Your first decision is not always the correct decision. Therefore, it is important to seek wise counsel before engaging in any major transition (Prov. 24:6). Had I moved on the first opportunity, over 14 acres would have been used for the main facility and the parking lot, with little room remaining for growth. The property at OCI is 104 acres, with two barns, a baptismal pool, two pavilions, along with an outdoor and indoor kitchen, with a 20,000 square-foot lodge being built. Often the Lord will not reveal the full details of His plans as we must walk out the process one phase at a time. He does this to prevent us from becoming overwhelmed with cares of the ministry.

**WAITING SEASON 5: TO SIGN A CONTRACT FOR WRITING BOOKS**

When a ministry self-publishes books they basically reach only their ministry audience. Publishing companies have a larger footprint to reach more people and foreign distribution. In the late 1990’s I was approached to sign with a Christian publisher whose company would assist me in reaching more people with my message. Their idea was to use “ghost writers” that would take my thoughts and put them in their own words. I received a “check in my spirit” that I should not proceed in this manner. It would be over ten years later that I would feel a release to sign with this publisher and I personally wrote over 17 books that were published and made available around the world! From age 18 to the present, I have lost count of the number of books I have written, if we include the earlier 32-page books.

**THE REASON FOR THE WAIT**

The first offer was prior to launching the Mana-Fest telecast. At that season any printed material would have reached a very limited reading audience of mostly friends or partners. Since all income from sales of resources goes 100% back into the ministry, any contract would have supported the ministry but been of no financial assistance to me or the family. However, the second door which opened many years later provided me with an ‘advance’ from the publisher for each book written. This advance was personal and not for the ministry and enabled me to bless my parents and family in ways otherwise not possible. These contracts were signed eight years after Mana-fest had its footprint around the world, drawing in millions of viewers, many who were spiritually thirsting for fresh insight into the Word of God and desired to be taught deeper kingdom wisdom and knowledge. The many books have been a long arm encompassing the world with numerous life-changing messages. Again, we see the timing of God manifest in such a wonderful manner for both the ministry and for personal blessing.

**IN CONCLUSION**

Faith and patience are power twins, that I compare to Aaron and Hur in the Old Testament. When Moses held up the rod, Israel prevailed in battle. When his hands became weak, Israel became weak in war. Aaron and Hur were assigned to hold up the arms of Moses until the battle was won. Aaron and Hur are the faith and patience required to strengthen you while the battle ages. All Moses had to do was to stand still and obey the Lord as his two ‘armor bearers’ assisted him with their strength.

Once God’s promises are engrafted in your heart, you must never give up in the night what God showed you in the light! Paul said to “hold fast your confession of faith nothing wavering” (Heb.10:23). The second part of that verse says, “For He is faithful that promised.” Those six words say it all.