

Lesson 4:

"When God Makes You Wait"

I. God uses seasons of delay and disappointment to develop

_____ /perseverance. (vv. 1-4)

a. *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* on biblical patience: "Patience" implies suffering, enduring or waiting, as a determination of the will and not simply under necessity. As such it is an essential Christian virtue to the exercise of which there are many exhortations. We need to "wait patiently" for God, to endure uncomplainingly the various forms of sufferings, wrongs and evils that we meet with, and to bear patiently injustices which we cannot remedy and provocations we cannot remove.

b. Romans 5:3; James 1:2-4

i. *Hupomone* – lit. "an abiding under" -

ii. "It speaks of tenacity and stick-to-it-iveness . . . it is not the patience that passively endures; instead, it is the quality that enables a man to stand on his feet _____ . . . It is in struggling against difficulty and opposition that this

_____ is developed. (Burdick, *Expositor's Bible Commentary*)

II. God uses seasons of delay and disappointment to develop

_____ and _____. (vv. 5-8a)

a. 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4

b. Greatness = How much you accomplish for the kingdom – [MINUS] how many people you selfishly _____ or _____ along the way

- c. God may very well be using your season of delay and disappointment to develop in you _____ to see the hurting, a _____ to feel their pain, and a _____ to speak words of comfort and encouragement into their life.

III. **God uses seasons of delay and disappointment to develop _____ . (vv. 8-19)**

- a. Godliness defined
- i. *Nelson's Bible Dictionary*: Godliness means more than religious profession and a godly conduct; it also means the reality and power of a vital union with God.
 - ii. Jerry Bridges: "For the godly person, God is the center and focal point of his or her life. Every circumstance and every activity of life, whether in the temporal or spiritual realms is viewed through the lens of this God-centeredness." (*Respectable Sins*, pg. 58)
 - iii. In summary: It's a God-consciousness that permeates EVERY aspect of life!
- b. Joseph had a God-_____ !

We want **results** . . . God wants to teach us to **rest**.

We want **conclusions** . . . God wants to build our **character**.

We want **deliverance** . . . God wants to deepen our **dependence**.

We want to **finish** . . . God wants to strengthen our **faith**.

We want to **escape** . . . God wants to teach us how to **endure**.

"To say NOW to God is as presumptuous as saying NO." (Richard Halverson) Submission to God's will requires submission to His timing!