

# WHO'S WAITING ON WHO

Is 25:1

Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

I have what is known as protanopia. Which is essentially, red-green colour blindness. So what that means is that my eyes don't detect enough red, and therefore things that are red don't come through as clearly for me, they look more green. Any colour that has red in it, like purple, orange, even brown, I'm going to struggle to clearly define.

The problem with being colour blind is that things that are actually different look the same. There's a factual difference that I simply cannot see and I am oblivious to what is actually happening and the reality around me.

And sometimes, we can be spiritually blind. And there's a level of spiritual blindness where God is clearly trying to speak to someone and they don't acknowledge it and don't see it. This is akin to actual blindness where someone feels like something is missing, it's not right, but they don't know what it is. This is important to be sure, but that's not what I want to talk about today. Because I think there's another level of spiritual blindness that's more subtle. It's less obvious and I think it's much easier to fall into, and like colour blindness, you might not even know you have it. Everything seems normal and it feels like this is just the way things are, but there's also a desire for things to be better.

This kind of spiritual blindness is when you can't tell the difference between patience and negligence.

## **Patience**

We know that we need to be patient and we need to trust God and we need to allow God to do His thing. So we are aware that patience is important, it's a fruit of the Spirit, it's all throughout the bible, so when things aren't going at the speed we want them to, when things feel a bit stalled or slow, we can easily come to the conclusion that we need to be patient and wait for God to do His thing.

## **Negligence**

But you know what can look exactly the same as this? It's when we're negligent with the things of God. See when we're negligent, it means that we're told what to do, but we don't do it. We're told where to go, but we stay still. We're given the principles and the processes to follow but we don't take it on board.

And both of these things look exactly the same. When you're being patient and waiting on God, you're keeping faithful, you're praying, your heart is in the right place, but you won't move until you're sure that God tells you to move.

And when we're negligent, meaning when God has told us what to do, given us a clear instruction, but instead, we just don't do what He's told us, we can keep praying, having our heart in the right place, keep serving God the way we've been serving, and we just don't move. We're stationary.

Sometimes we can't tell the difference. We're spiritually blind. We think we're waiting on God, but really, God's waiting on us.

**Example:**

Matt 5:23

<sup>23</sup> "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

You know when you have an issue with someone? Maybe it's big, maybe it's small, doesn't really matter, but you just know that things aren't right. So what do you do about it? My first reaction is to go to God and pray about it

And then when things don't change, they don't get better, things get more awkward, things get more surface level to placate them, and I just think, "Well, it must be in God's timing."

"Leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them."

We're waiting and expecting God to do something, thinking that it's in His timing, but God's looking at us pointing at this scripture.

Before we even get to the part where we wait on God, the question is, **"Have we done everything we know to do?"**

Have we followed the principles outlined in the bible?

Have we listened to what the Holy Spirit is telling us?

Have we sought Godly advice from others?

Have we surrendered and laid down that sin?

Have we confronted, instead of avoided, the conflict?

These things are small, subtle, but absolutely important for God to unfold His plan in our life. Sometimes it's not God's faithfulness holding us back, it's our disobedience.

Most of Christianity, following Jesus, is walking it out. This my own statistic I just made up, but 90% of Christianity is applying what you know, being faithful with it, getting that old revelation brought to life in a new way, and just putting it all into practice. And 10% is actually gaining a brand new revelation.

When we look at the life of King David in the bible, we actually see him see things right, where he had to wait on God and did it well, and where he got it wrong, and had spiritual blindness.

2 Samuel 13 – 19.

- David has a son named Absalom
- Absalom kills one of his brothers because he did something horrible
- Absalom runs away and hides for three years
- **David, Absalom's father, missed his son, but does nothing about it**
- **David is advised to bring back his son, which he does, but doesn't see him**
- Every time Absalom wants to see his dad, **David denies him**
- Absalom stays in Israel for two years **without seeing his dad**, so that's five years in total.
- Absalom has to start a fire for David to finally agree to see him
- Clearly they don't reconcile properly because Absalom starts a coup
- David and his small army run away
- Eventually there's a battle and Absalom is killed

Psalm 3:7,8 (written by David while running away from Absalom)

<sup>7</sup>Arise, Lord!

Deliver me, my God!

Strike all my enemies on the jaw;  
break the teeth of the wicked.

<sup>8</sup>From the Lord comes deliverance.

May your blessing be on your people.

Psalm 103:13

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him

If David had just reconciled with his son, he wouldn't have had to write this Psalm. He wouldn't have had to go through this level of anxiety and persecution.

And there are times when instead of doing what is right, doing what we know to do, doing what the bible has clarity on, we go to God crying out for His deliverance.

**The question isn't whether God is reliable, the question is whether we are responsible.**

David also got it right when he waited on God.

1 Sam 24:10 – 12

<sup>10</sup>This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord's anointed.' <sup>11</sup>See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. <sup>12</sup>May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.

He had already put into practice all the principles, he honoured Saul, he did everything he knew to do, and now it was time to trust God for God to do what only God could do.

**Patience and negligence can look the same, but the difference is whether you've done everything you know to do.**

The good news is that when you've done everything you know to do, you've put all of it into practice, you can trust in God's timing and faithfulness.

Ps 119:59, 60

<sup>59</sup>I have considered my ways  
and have turned my steps to your statutes.

<sup>60</sup>I will hasten and not delay  
to obey your commands.

**Are you waiting on God or is God waiting for you?** I think we can delay what God has for us when we're not doing what He's clearly told us to do. When it comes to obeying God, we're meant to do it quickly and without delay. That's not meant to be condemning or demeaning, but the question is, what are you waiting for? Because when it comes to doing what God has clearly given us to do, in His word, through people, through the Holy Spirit, then we need to just do it.

But if you've done everything you know to do, then you know that God is faithful in what He promised.

Ps 84:11

<sup>11</sup>For the Lord God is a sun and shield;  
the Lord bestows favour and honour;  
no good thing does he withhold  
from those whose walk is blameless.

God wants to give you favour, honour, and good things. Your life in Christ is full of good things, it's meant to be life abundant. But it says that He gives it to those whose walk is blameless.

Two things:

1. Walk. Remember my made up statistic, 90% of the Christian life is walking it out. It's about putting into practice what you already know. You need to walk it.
2. Blameless doesn't mean you've never made a mistake or that you've never done anything wrong. It simply means that when God looks at your walk, you've done everything you know to do. There's no blame to be had. You applied the principles, you obeyed, you did what you knew to do.

And it says that when our walk is blameless, He withholds no good thing. God is faithful, His promise is true, it's on the way, God isn't holding it back and not allowing you to have it. When you've done everything you know to do, God bestows favour, honour and good things on your life.

Isaiah 25:1

Lord, you are my God;  
I will exalt you and praise your name,  
for in perfect faithfulness  
you have done wonderful things,  
things planned long ago.

I love that it says His faithfulness is perfect. I think when it comes to God's faithfulness, it's easy to assume God got it wrong because it took too long. He hasn't gotten it wrong in every single life in all of history so far, and He's not about to start to get it wrong in your life now.

His faithfulness is perfect. It's not necessarily comfortable, it's not the way you would've done it, it's not even easy, but it's perfect, which means you can trust Him and you can trust in His faithfulness, it's a perfect faithfulness. God isn't making any mistakes along the way to fulfilling His promise in your life.

Have you done everything you know to do? And if you have, you can trust in God's faithfulness in your life.