

The Waiting is
the Hardest Part
By Veronica Neffinger

“Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!”

Psalms 27:14

Did you ever realize how good things nearly always take time?

As children, waiting can seem like agony. We don’t want to think about the hours that must slowly slip by until school lets out, until summer comes back around, or until our favorite uncle comes to visit again. As adults, our impatience is little lessened, albeit perhaps better concealed.

In our culture of immediacy, having patience is even more difficult and out of reach. We are used to multitasking and packing each day with so much busyness that we seldom have time to hear our own voices.

This impatience for results, for productivity is, I believe, something that we, as Christians, must learn to surrender, will have to learn to surrender if we are going to keep growing.

Have you ever noticed that good things nearly always come about because of a process; oftentimes, a long process?

Conversely, it seems many bad things are those that happen in an instant: a car crash that turns your life upside down, a quick word hurled out in anger which breaks a relationship, a split-second decision to give in to peer-pressure.

Now, of course not all split-second decisions lead to negative consequences, but there is a striking parallel here:

As we are jumping from one thing to the next on a continual cycle of busyness, spiraling away from deep understanding and hovering on the periphery of thought, God is seeking to work against the entropy we have created, making the disparate parts of our life into something beautiful.

God is very comfortable working slowly (or what appears as slowly to us).

We all want this transformation God promises us in His Word, but are we willing to wait for it?

After the moment of salvation, God desires to sanctify us--to make us holy--but this takes time and daily repentance, submission, and prayer, all things that themselves require us to be in for

the long haul if we hope to see fruit.

God does not take His sweet time making us more like Himself because He enjoys seeing our impatience; He is patient in perfecting us because, for any truth to truly take hold in us, takes time.

Although we are creatures who have no problem proclaiming an opinion in an instant, we also recognize that dearly-held beliefs are not easily relinquished.

In His infinite mercy, God takes upon Himself the process of gently wrestling our most dearly-held but harmful, selfish, and just plain false beliefs from the intense grip we have on them.

Our stubbornness to begin the growing process is often a reason why we do not spring forward in our Christian life in leaps and bounds.

But that is okay. God knows our frame, and His patience and lovingkindness never fails, even when ours does.

Intersecting Faith & Life: Do you struggle with patience and waiting on the Lord? What is the Lord trying to teach you through it?

Further Reading: Proverbs 25:15; Romans 9:22; Galatians 5:22.

Online public notice
bill dies in Senate; MPA
to unveil new public
notice website

Press Release

A bill that would have allowed state municipalities to publish public notice (legal) advertisements on government websites in lieu of in a local newspaper has died in the senate.

SB 2339 was filed by three legislators representing DeSoto County. It died

in committee.

“It appears most problematic legislation concerning newspaper notices is dead for this session,” said MPA Executive Director Layne Bruce. “We have seen similar bills such as this gather steam in recent years, but we continue to stridently argue that gov-

ernment should not be in the business of publishing its own public notices and that newspaper media remains the long-trusted third party for this purpose.”

Bruce said that because state statute keeps public notice advertising costs at a bare minimum in Mississippi that government entities would not realize significant savings by eliminating the ads.

“As for the issue of making the notices available online, MPA has for 20 years operated a statewide aggregate website for public notice ads,” Bruce said. “It has been maintained by the association and its members all this time with no added cost to government entities or taxpayers.”

Bruce said a newly upgraded version of the website will debut this spring.

“The new site will bring with it new functionality and ease of use for the public as well as our newspaper members,” Bruce said. “We will be reaching out soon to newspapers about the conversion process, which we hope to begin in earnest this coming month.”



- March 4 - Warren and Courts
- March 6 - Larry and Susan Bonner
- March 7 - Webb and Sissy O'Reilly
- March 8 - Blake and Randi Langford
- March 9 - Jeff and Joy Trehern, Ben and Lorene
- March 10 - Chase and Brittany Spell, O.D. and Kathleen McKennie

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Limit the potential
for damage

Dear Dave,
My husband started working at a new company about a year ago. As part of his sign on, they gave him \$5,000 in company stock. The stock has nearly doubled in value since then, and we were wondering if we should buy more, considering how well it has done.

Cathi

Dear Cathi,
I totally get why you two might be excited over a stock that doubled in value over the course of a year. But what you’re talking about doing right now is a very risky proposition. The truth is any stock that doubles in value over the course of just one year is highly volatile. It’s unusual for stocks to do things like that, and it also means it could go down just as fast—or even faster.

I don’t know where you and your husband are in your overall financial situation, but I recommend people become debt-free except for their homes, and have an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses saved up before investing. Once you reach that point,

I strongly advise to begin putting 15 percent of your income toward retirement before you start any outside investing.

Don’t get me wrong, I don’t mind a little selective and educated dabbling here and there once the basics are taken care of first. However, I’d never recommend putting more than 10 percent of your nest egg into a single stock. The reason? If the single stock tanks and you lose it all, then your loss is only a blip on your financial radar. Of course, it would be fantastic if this single stock went through the roof and you two made a ton of money. Just make sure you limit the potential for damage in this kind of scenario by limiting your exposure.

—Dave

*Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.

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