DESTROYING THE SPIRIT OF DELAY

Exposing The Demons Behind Delay, With Spiritual Warfare Prayers To Overcome Evil Afflictions, Spiritual Spouse, Generational Witchcraft, Captivity And Stagnation
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JOHN IJEH
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER ONE:
WHAT IS DELAY?
Some Major Areas People Experience Delay
Marriage
The Seven Sisters
Pray This Prayer

CHAPTER TWO:
HOW TO IDENTIFY THE SPIRIT OF DELAY

Subtle Delay
When It Looks Rosy
When Delay Seems Normal
PRAYER

CHAPTER THREE:
CASES OF DELAY IN THE BIBLE
Abraham
The Israelites in the Wilderness
King Saul
The Five Foolish Virgin
Daniel and the Prince of Persia
The Man at the Pool of Bethesda
Repeated Pattern
Time Relation
Loss of Hope
Not Sure Anymore
External Pressure
The Enemies' Encroachment

CHAPTER FOUR:
WHAT CAUSES DELAY?
God at Work
HUMAN FACTOR
Ignorance
The Devils Attack
Pray This Prayer

CHAPTER FOUR:
WHY PEOPLE TAKE WRONG DECISIONS WHEN THEY EXPERIENCE DELAY
Lack of Conviction
How to Build Conviction
Know That God is With You
Ignorance of the Operations of God
People Faint Because They Look at Circumstances
Inability to Withstand Pressure
Inadequate Preparation
CHAPTER FOUR
HOW TO OVERCOME DELAY
Hold On to God's Promises
Follow God from The Inside
But: When
Be Stubborn: against Pressure from Other People
Make Adequate Preparation
Don't be Idle
Pray
Why Do We Pray?
We Pray For Relationship
We Pray For Needs
Provision
Protection
Guidance
We Pray For Defense
Praying Always
Pray About Everything
Pray Anyhow
PRAYER
ABOUT THE AUTHOR
INTRODUCTION

Our existence here on earth is marked by time. We tie everything we do to time. Nothing happens on earth outside of time. We have time to eat; time to go to work and time to go to bed. Human beings naturally set time limits within which they expect certain things to happen in their lives. Time is everything on earth. We live in the realm of time and seasons. The Bible lends credence to the fact that every activity and event on earth is time bound. Time and seasons mark off the segments of our lives.

Time is also one of the yardsticks with which we measure our progress in life. We want to know the time you started school and how long you spent before graduating from school. This helps to decide whether you are making progress or not. We even consider how old you are before getting married or making your first financial breakthrough.

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up: A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing: A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. Ecc 3: 1-8

Time is the greatest asset given to man yet time is a friend to no man. This asset is in equal measure to everyone. No one has it more than the
others. It is the only commodity that is evenly distributed among humans. The rich and the poor have it in equal proportion. Developed and poor nations have the same amount of time. No person has more time in a day than the other. Everyone sets his or her expectation within a time limit. What individuals do with their time is what marks the difference between success and failure. Human expectations are always time bound. We set a time when we intend to finish high school or the time to get married or even achieve financial independence.

However, many a time, these expectations don't come through. Sometimes, the time limits are far exceeded without any visible results. Some people don't even get to see their dream or desire come through in their lifetime. This is so disappointing yet very true. The pain of going through life without fulfilling your dream and reaching your goal is very excruciating. In fact, such experience turns someone into a sack of bitterness.

Why do some people not see their dreams or desires come through at the time they expected it to? Many people start out in life with big dreams and great expectations. They labored at achieving those dreams and did everything within their power to reach their goal but unfortunately, they couldn't see their heart desire come through.

That dream and good desire in your heart are proof positive that God wants you to fulfill them. The Bible says that the desire of the righteous shall be granted. It equally says that the expectations of the righteous shall not be cut off. So, when desires and expectations delay unnecessarily, especially after you have done what is humanly possible, then a force or an evil personality is at work. Perhaps your dream has been hijacked. Such conditions are usually engendered
by forces stronger than human strength. You need to activate a greater force— the force of prayer especially warfare prayer—in dealing with such forces.

Unnecessary delay of one’s expectations could cause despair and discouragement. The Bible says that hope deferred makes the heart sick.

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life. Prov. 13:12

Yes, discouragement can set in when your expectation delays to materialize.

The apostle Paul says in 11 Cor. 10:3–

We are humans but we do not wage war as humans do. We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons to knock down the stronghold of human reasoning and to destroy false argument. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

We have been given the authority to destroy every power that negates God’s plans for our lives through warfare prayer. These forces of darkness are hell-bent on stopping you and you need to stop them before they stop you.

This book will show you what to do when you experience unwarranted delay in your life. More often than not, God is not behind the delay we face. When He is involved, then be sure it will work out for your good.

You need to know what to do when your desire takes too long to come through. A desire fulfilled is a tree of life. Delay causes frustration. Some people lost all hope because all their effort and energy spent pursuing their life goal or a particular desire in their lives proved abortive. You don’t have to be discouraged; God is capable of restoring your years of wasted efforts.
CHAPTER ONE:

WHAT IS DELAY?

Delay means that what you expect, plan and work towards did not materialize within the time limit you set. It means that a promise or an expectation takes more time than usual to manifest. It is when something that should take two years eventually takes ten or when what you desire to accomplish in your youthful years only started showing up in your old age or not show up at all. Delay simply means that you did not get or achieve your aim within the time frame of your expectation.

Delay brings discouragement and despair. People lose heart when their hope is unnecessarily withheld. The Bible says that hope that defer makes the heart sick but when a desire comes, it is the tree of life. Life is affected when expectations are not realized. Delay makes people unhappy. It makes them lose excitement about their dreams for life. Unnecessary delay can make someone to lose enthusiasm in life.

When you face unnecessary delay, you may develop inertia or lose your zeal for pursuing such goal. You may even start looking at life from a negative perspective especially when you think you've done everything humanly possible to achieve such goal. The more time, energy and resources you put into a particular project, the more painful it is when you experience unnecessary delay in achieving such project.

Some Major Areas People Experience Delay

Delay can occur in any area of life. The spirit of delay does not have any special area of interest
in human lives. His mission is to stop you from being fulfilled, but generally, people experience delay in the following areas.

Marriage

It is a common knowledge that many people don't get married at the time they desire to. Some people set a time limit within which to get married but unfortunately, many still remained unmarried long after the time they set had been exceeded. Sometimes this happens even after some people have done all they are supposed to do.

A lot of singles can't understand the reason for such unnecessary delay. Many have done everything within their power yet, it is either the right man or woman is not coming forth or the relationship isn't working. It is more surprising when you meet such people and discover that they've got the qualities that people look out for. You are forced to ask why such people experience such unfair outcome. It seems unfair that such people could suffer such fate. Everything about them shows they deserve a good man or woman yet such man or woman remains elusive. I've had to ask why, why and why several times but I'm yet to get any concrete answer.

Well, friend, life is not fair. Life doesn't give you what you deserved; it gives you what you demand. So, stop asking why me and start demanding what you want.

I have met unmarried ladies who are better wife materials than some who are married. Most unmarried ladies are pretty, educated, respectful and balanced emotionally yet men seem to be running away from them and running into the hands of the ones you could consider as traps.

There was a particular lady I knew in the church back then. Everyone talked good of her. Her friends would always say that the man who
would marry her would be a lucky man. But this
sister remained unmarried for a very long time.
At some point the women in the church began
to scold young men in the church for being so
blind. They would say something like: Don't you
people see this sister? Are you so blind that you
can't see the good thing around you? Can't you
see her beauty and good qualities?

The scolding didn't work. The more they talked,
the more young men run away from her and
marry the ones who were not considered good
wife materials.

Another surprising thing is that even the young
men in the church recognized and talked about
the sister in question as a potential wife material
yet none even dare to give her a try. Young men
would say to one another: why don't go for this
sister and the person would reply: "You go for
her, I am not led".

This lady as some point became desperate. She
was ready to go ahead with any man who
showed interest irrespective of the person's reli-
gious or social background. Delay can cause des-
peration and desperation leads to wrong choices,
which eventually leads to frustration. The spirit
of delay is a wicked spirit. It rejoices at people's
misery. The power of delay is happy when you
are frustrated.

The writer of Ecclesiastics lamented over the
evils he had seen among the sons of men. One
of such evil was that kings were walking on foot
while slaves rode on horses. In other words, he
saw those who were qualified deprived access to
good things of life and access given to those who
didn't merit it.

The sister in question eventually turned to
prayer. She realized that her case was not ordi-
nary. She decided to apply a greater force.
Warfare prayer is a weapon against delay. Delay
in marriage could be caused by spiritual forces. You don't fight spiritual forces with physical weapons. Logic will fall flat in the face of spiritual battle. Spiritual battles are fought with spiritual weapons not academic qualification or physical weapons.

**The Seven Sisters**

A pastor told me a story of his encounter with seven sisters. All were from the same parents. They were such beauty queens; lovely in both appearance and character. It is also worth mentioning here that they were not lacking in education yet none of them was married. The oldest among them was forty-five years of age at that time. Six of them with the exception of the last girl had at least a child out of wedlock.

Those seven sisters as I mentioned earlier were irresistibly attractive. Men could hardly look away if they saw any of them yet no man found any of them worth marrying. They were not just beautiful, they had good education and very good upbringing. So, we could say that they had all the qualities men look for in women. It baffled everyone that such rare combination of beauty, brain and behavior could not attract men beyond sexual intercourse.

One Sunday morning, one of the sisters was invited to church. After the church service, she approached the pastor for counseling and requested that the pastor come to pray for her entire family. When the pastor got to their house, he noticed that none of the seven sisters was married. He was bold to tell them that it wasn't natural for such beauties to be unmarried especially when they had such desire. He led the entire family in deliverance prayers. It didn't take long before they was a breakthrough in that family. The youngest was the first to get married.
Within the space of two years, all seven were married.

**Pray This Prayer**

- Every evil spirit that is causing unnecessary delay in my life be disgraced by fire and by the blood of Jesus Christ.
- Any power that monitors me to ensure delay in my life, be roasted by the fire of the Holy Ghost in Jesus name.
- I declare that the chain of delay is broken in my life in Jesus name.
- I break out of every bondage of stagnation in Jesus name.
- Let every demonic and witchcraft power projected to cause delay in my life catch fire and burn to ashes in Jesus name.
- I command the four corners of the earth to release every of my overdue blessing now in Jesus name.
- Let every family altar causing setback in my life be destroyed by fire and thunder in Jesus name.
CHAPTER TWO:

HOW TO IDENTIFY THE
SPIRIT OF DELAY

I said earlier that our lives as humans are governed by time. There is time for everything in life. Some things don't require force. They happen naturally even without anyone's support. For example, once it is night, the body naturally switches to sleep mode. This is simply because it is time to sleep and no one worries about that. You only worry when it is night and you can't sleep.

When you are due for a particular thing in life and you have done what is humanly possible yet no result, then delay has set in. You can identify delay when every other person involved in a particular project has received result or some answers except you. For instance, there is delay when you've been married for so many years without any issue. There is delay when you find it difficult to hook up in a relationship for so many years. When normal things take more than normal time to surface in your life, you know that something is wrong somewhere. The spirit of delay is at work.

Subtle Delay

Delay could come in a very subtle manner. Sometimes people are not aware they are up against such a dangerous evil force. They are blinded by the saying that 'what will be, will be.' Or delay is not denial.
tended to be. Delay can become denial if nothing is done to end the delay.

There is a story of a man who applied for a job in an oil company at about the age of twenty-five when just finished his university education. He passed the interview successfully and was enlisted for the job. His appointment letter was written but for reason unknown to him, he didn't receive the letter. He was unemployed for many years and even when he got a job, he only got something that just barely kept him afloat. When he turned sixty-five, a letter was dropped in the box for him. When he opened the letter, behold, it was his appointment letter forty years ago. The spirit of delay had robbed him of his destiny. That will not be your portion in Jesus name.

The book of Daniel gives us an example of how evil forces could try to hinder someone's prayer or desire from coming through. The angel Gabriel told Daniel that his prayer was answered the first day he set out to seek the face of God but as the time the angel was talking to him twenty-one days had gone by. The question is: does it take twenty-one days for an angel to travel from heaven to earth? The answer is no. The angel himself revealed that he was held up in the heavens. Daniel suffered delay not because God was too busy to answer him but because another force tried to interfere with the order of things.

Bishop David Oyedepo said that nothing works until someone works it. So, what will be must be propelled by human input. Delay could become permanent unless you do something about it.

Fatal resignation to fate is a mental condition that causes the spirit of delay to have his way in someone's life. Don't buy into such lie from the pit of hell.
When It Looks Rosy

Most people suffer from subtle delay because they compare themselves with people around them. You may be convinced to rest on your oars if you think you are doing better than those around you.

The people around you should not be the only yardstick with which you measure your dream, aspiration and success. The question you should ask yourself is whether where you are now is where you have dreamed of being. Have achieved the goal you set for yourself? Measuring yourself with the people around you could lead to unnecessary delay. Don’t feel comfortable just because you’ve got a few things that your neighbors are yet to get.

When Delay Seems Normal

Many have accepted their fate. A lot of people are comfortable with where they are. That is what the spirit of delay can do. The spirit of delay can make someone accept the status quo and live with it as if that is normal.

Sometimes, delay could look like the norm. You adjust to the situation and come to the conclusion that there is nothing else that can be done. ‘That’s just the way it is’. Nothing is out there for you. The truth is that there’s more out there for you than you can think of. It will surprise you how much you are worth and how much this yet available and untapped out there.

The Bible tells us that the time appointed for the captivity of the children of Israel in Babylon was seventy years. But as at the time Daniel began to seek the face of God, they had stayed in the land for over a hundred years. The additional years were not part of God’s agenda for them. The additional years were not even part of an extension
of God's punishment for them. They simply were
under the influence of the spirit of delay.

PRAYER

➤ I command every subtle delay going on in my
life or my family to be exposed and be destroyed
right now in Jesus name
➤ O Lord my God, let evil affliction seize in my
life now in Jesus name
➤ I reject any situation that seems rosy and normal but causing delay in my life in Jesus name
➤ I declare in the powerful name of Jesus that
from today onwards, my blessing will come to
me in due time
➤ O Lord my God, Expose every subtle delay
going on in my life. Let it stop right now in Jesus
name.
➤ I break the power of subtle delay in my life in
Jesus name
➤ Let every demon assigned to hold me down be
destroyed right now in Jesus name.
CHAPTER THREE:

CASES OF DELAY IN THE BIBLE

We have several cases of delay in the Bible. A few of God’s servants have come under the deadly attack of the spirit of delay. The devil uses delay to make people lose heart and probably seek other alternatives.

Prov. 13:12 says that hope deferred makes the heart sick. In other words, you are bound to lose hope when your expectation fails to materialize.

Some of our fathers of faith also encountered delay in their walk with God. Their journey of faith was not a smooth ride. The power of delay tried to dissuade them from following God’s plan.

Abraham

It might interest you to know that the first case of delay recorded in the Bible happened to our father of faith, Abraham. Abraham received the promise to become the father of many nations when he was 75 years old. However, he had clocked a hundred years before he even had a son according to the promise of God, Genesis 16:1-12. Abraham never thought it would take that long for God’s promise to come to pass in his life. Like many of us, he must have thought that God would be swift on His promise. He and his wife must have been disappointed when the promise took so long in coming.

The spirit of delay made Abraham and Sarah to conclude that there was no need waiting for God to act. They decided to act by themselves. They started to devise a means to solve their problem. Sarah suggested a way out. Her suggestion looked very appealing to her husband. Without hesitation, they executed their plan and got a
child but they got the wrong child. They altered God’s purpose because they responded wrongly to the spirit of delay. They produced Ishmael who was not part of God’s agenda for Abraham. Ishmael wasn’t the promise of God for them. He came because they couldn’t wait any longer.

The focus of the spirit of delay is to knock you out of God’s plan for your life. The devil wants you to take a step in the flesh to solve your problem. He wants you use logic and what we call common sense. Common sense is not bad on its own unless it comes against God’s agenda.

Any step in the flesh is a step out of God’s will. Stepping out of God’s will makes a child of God an easy prey. When you walk out of God’s agenda, you immediately start walking into that of the devil. The agenda of Satan is to get men and women to rely on human wisdom and effort. He knows that once that happens, the individual becomes an easy prey.

It is human to look for alternative when something is not working out. There is nothing wrong with trying out something else as long as you are not doing that against God’s promise or revealed purpose.

Delay in child birth could be a very tough challenge for couples. It was to our father Abraham and his wife Sarah. It was that bad that Sarah didn’t mind sharing her husband with another woman as long as that could bring some hope. Can you see how hard the spirit of delay can press someone?

Women are not known for pioneering the idea of sharing their husbands with any other woman. It anything, it is men who go into extra marital affairs on their own. But here Sarah pioneered the idea.

Abraham himself didn’t even ask for a time to think through the idea; he jumped at the sugges-
tion at the first mention—at least the Bible didn’t tell us he protested. That’s what happens when you are overdue for something; you become desperate and anything that looks like what you’ve been searching for gets a huge bite before you know whether that is the right one or not.

Most young men and ladies have dabbled into the wrong relationship just because they feel time was no longer on their side. It’s important to learn how to keep your spiritual antenna high even when things delay to come through. A time of delay is the best time that devil strikes because that is when men and women are the most vulnerable.

**The Israelites in the Wilderness**

Another case of delay in the Bible is the case of the children of Israel in the wilderness.

**Exodus 32:1** And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

The spirit of delay crept in as soon as the people felt that Moses had taken too long in coming down from the mountain. Their patience waded off and they were ready for plan B. They held Aaron and demanded that he made them a god who would go with them. Aaron made a golden calf for them against God’s command in Exodus 20. They violated God’s commandment just because Moses delayed in coming down from the mountain.

The spirit of delay normally influences people to act against God’s command.

There are quite a number of cases of Christians—brothers or sisters going ahead to marry an un-
believer because no one was coming forth from the church or the Christian community. The results of such decisions are not always positive. Some have discovered afterwards that waiting on God is worth the while. There are several cases of Christians falling into the hands of predators.

Sarah gave her maid to Abraham because she thought that God had gone back on His promise. The same maid eventually turned to despise her. Ishmael was a turn in the flesh to Isaac.

When the Israelites couldn't see Moses at the time they expected, they thought God had forsaken them. Delay doesn't mean that God has abandoned you. God will never abandon His own children. He is faithful to His promise. He is too faithful to fail you. He is too committed to leave you halfway. Disappointment is not in His vocabulary. He doesn't know how to do that. That is not part of who He is. His name is faithful. That name came from His very nature. He doesn't play games. Friends and family may fail but God never fails. Don't allow situation to make feel, like the Israelites that God has forsaken you.

King Saul

King Saul was another individual in the Bible who was derailed by the spirit of delay. 1Sam. 13:7-12

And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering, and it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, be-
hold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash. Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD. I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

Saul missed out of God's plan because he gave in to the spirit of delay. The primary assignment of this demon is to make you act outside of God's plan. He wants you to seek alternative outside God's plan for your life. The spirit of delay wants you to think or believe that God has abandoned you to your fate, so you have no other option than to do what you must do.

Abraham agreed to go into his maid to get a child that God had promised him. Perhaps, he thought God's promise was late in coming through or maybe he wanted to help God or at least hasten His promise. The demon of delay made him and Sarah to believe there was something they weren't getting right. They assumed, I suppose, that their strategy could help God's plan in coming through.

Aaron also led the children of Israel astray because they thought Moses was late in coming down from the mountain. As Moses delayed, the children of Israel quickly started to look for alternative. They concluded that whatever kept Moses that long must have taken him completely out of the way. Perhaps, he's no longer coming back, let's find a way to help ourselves.

King Saul could not wait for Samuel to arrive and offer sacrifice before he proceeded to war. When he saw that situation was getting out of hand and the people were scattering and desert-
ing him, the enemies were encroaching fast, he offered the sacrifice he was not meant to offer and he lost out of God's will.

The spirit of delay pushed Saul out of God's plan. This demon will make you to focus more on circumstances than on God's word. In the case of King Saul, his soldiers had lost courage and were looking for where to hide or how to get back safely to their families, the enemies on the other hand were encroaching so fast. With this dilemma around King Saul, he saw no trace of Samuel coming. He felt his life and his entire kingdom were in grave danger, so he acted.

How many times have we faced similar situations? You've been waiting for so long, yet all you could see was condition getting worse. All your attempts would seem so insignificant and useless in the face of the challenge you're facing. All your contact and connections produced little or no results. Like Joh, your friends and family members would advise you to quit or take what is available. Deep down you know what God has said to you or at least what you want for your life but delay is making you now unsure. Friends and families are asking you to consider what is available. Well, just stay strong and focused. God will bring His word to pass in your life.

**The Five Foolish Virgin**

Matt.25. 1-9

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all
these virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And
the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil;
for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered,
saying, Not so: lest there be not enough for us and
you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for
yourselves.

The major point in this story is the lack of wis-
dom displayed by the foolish virgins. However,
you could see that their oil was used up because
the bridegroom delayed. They must have esti-
mated the time it would take the groom to arrive
and consequently, they took oil proportional to
their estimate. The spirit of delay exposed their
lack of preparation.

These virgins did defile themselves. Their
offence was not that they followed another
bridegroom or start playing harlotry. No, they
didn't do any of that. Their weakness showed in
the way they handled delay. The Bible says that
while the bridegroom delayed, they all slept off.

The aim of the spirit of delay is to dissipate your
strength up to the point of weariness. When
you are weary, you will most likely make wrong
choices. Hope deferred makes the heart sick. A
sick hear will lose its tenacity. Your power to en-
dure wanes as your expectation prolongs.

The foolish virgins did what they thought was
good for them. They filled their lamps with oil
like any other person. They were just ordinary,
normal human beings. Their problem was that
they failed to take extra oil. They didn't prepare
for the twists and turns of life. The Bible de-
scribes their inability to take extra oil as foolish-
ness. In other words, it is foolish not to prepare
for eventualities. Extra preparation is a battle
strategy against the spirit of delay. You must be
extra prepared if you must overcome the nega-
tive twist of the spirit of delay.
Daniel and the Prince of Persia

Daniel also experienced delay. His own delay was engendered by Satan. His prayer was answered the very first day he set out to seek the face of God but he couldn't get his answer until 21 days later.

Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me: and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Dan.10:12,13

This story underscores the fact that demonic forces can actually hinder people's blessing and they will attribute it to the act of God. Daniel's prayer was answered the first day and the blessing was dispatched but the angel who was conveying the blessing was waylaid and even hijacked on the way. The monitoring demon in charge of the kingdom of Persia called the prince of Persia withstood the angel Gabriel who was sent to deliver the message to Daniel.

How many times have we faced delay or even outright denial that we attribute to the Lord's doing when in reality we were just hindered by demonic forces?

What would have happened if Daniel had stopped praying the 12th day? Probably, his answer would have not come. His persistence in prayer enabled his victory over the demonic force of delay sent against him.

Most delays are as the result of activities going on in the spirit realm. There are battles going on in the spirit realm over your life. Your persistence in prayer and faith will push your victory through. So, don't give up when you think your
desire is taking more time to come through. It might be that a fight is going on in the spirit realm over your case. If you give up, you discourage the angel in charge of your blessing.

**The Man at the Pool of Bethesda**

In John chapter 5, we read the story of a man who had been at a spot for 38 years. He was held down by the demon of delay. There was opportunity for him to get healed but he couldn’t utilize that opportunity. Each time he tried, he failed. The place he stayed was called the pool of mercy, yet mercy eluded him for thirty-eight years. This man was clearly a victim of the spirit of delay. His case is a good example of someone who has been overpowered by life circumstances. He watched everyday as people go about their businesses, but he couldn’t join them. Both his legs and desire were crippled. The worst part is that he stayed and watched as others obtained their miracles, yet each time it came close to his turn, another person will overtake him. This happened for good thirty years of his life.

If this man was twelve years when the sickness hit him, it means he would be fifty as at the time Jesus met him. Well, fifty years, he could still pick up the pieces of his life. But what if he was thirty years of age when the sickness got him. Which at the time of his recovery, he would be sixty-eight.

Thank God for Jesus Christ. The day Jesus showed up at that pool, that demon of delay was sent away. No matter how long you’ve been in that situation, when Jesus shows up, your story will change for good.

**Repeated Pattern**

These cases in the Bible reveal similarity in the mode of operation of the spirit of delay. Delay takes some forms. You would notice the following in all the cases mentioned above.
Time Relation

The first thing you will notice is that in all the cases, there was time factor.

We live in the realm of time. The Bible tells us that there is time for everything. (Ecc 3) So, it is natural for human beings to expect something to happen at a particular time. One is bound to give in to despair when expectation fails to materialize at the expected time.

Abraham and Sarah had gone past the normal time of child bearing yet God’s promise of Chil-
dren was not forthcoming. At some point Sarah was convinced that the promise won’t come through; so, she decided to find another way out. Gen. 16:2

The same thing happened to the children of Israel. The idea of the golden calf came as a result of Moses delay from coming down from the mountain. They felt Moses had taken more time than expected; consequently, they decided to help themselves.

Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered to Aaron and said to him ‘come, make us gods that shall go before us. Exodus 32:1

The same delay happened to Saul and the foolish virgins. There is always the issue of time lag and the devil takes advantage of that to derail people.

Loss of Hope

Loss of hope is another strategy employed by the spirit of delay. When more time than expected begins to elapse, the spirit of delay will try to inject hopelessness and despair into your mind. He will make you think that God has given up on you. Sarah said that God had restrained her from bearing children. She was made to believe that God was not really interested in her affair any-
more. That's how we reason when things don't work out the way or the time we expect it.

God didn't restrain Sarah from bearing children. He is a faithful God. Sarah believed the lies of the devil. The devil will make you think that you are thirty-five and so can't have a savior or husband. That's a lie. Age is not a barrier to God.

The spirit of delay would want to turn you against God. He would want you to say something like: 'Well, this is how God wants it.'

The only way God wants it is how it is written in His word. Anything outside that, just know you are dealing with another spirit.

Not Sure Anymore

The children of Israel lost hope in the wilderness when they thought Moses was late in returning from the mountain. They asked Aaron to make them gods because they were no longer sure of Moses. They couldn't tell if he was alive or dead.

The spirit of delay takes advantage of uncertain situations. At any point, you become unsure about where God is and what He is capable of doing in your life, you are bound to wrestle with the spirit of delay.

Samuel also lost hope when Samuel delayed from coming to offer sacrifice. King Saul was not sure anymore when the people started scattering and deserting him. He lost hope.

Delay can make you lose hope. You were once bubbling with dreams and zeal, but ten years down the line, you cannot as much as mention anything about your dreams or aspiration because you can't see the possibility of fulfilling those dreams.

External Pressure

The spirit of delay also uses external pressure against individuals. When expectation delayed
in coming, there is bound to be pressure from other people.

Sarah pressurized Abraham into sleeping with Hagar. It was Sarah’s total decision to have a child through Hagar. Only heaven knows how many times she must have presented the issue to Abraham before he finally succumbed.

The people gathered around Aaron and pressured him into making the golden calf. Aaron succumbed to the people’s pressure. He couldn’t withstand their pressure.

It was the same pressure that made King Saul to offer the sacrifice he was not meant to offer.

When delay sets in, it usually brings pressure with it. People would want to remind you of how much time you have lost. They will point out the fact that you started this journey when you were twenty-five and now you’re thirty-five and still haven’t got much to show for your effort.

**The Enemies’ Encroachment**

The spirit of delay will make you feel you are losing ground. The devil will make you feel you are already rounded up by your enemies. It will seem as if the enemy will run you over any moment. The devil wants you to get impatient and agitated. And when you do, you will act. More often than not, decisions taken under tension are wrong. When you act because you feel that your life is at risk, you will do whatever comes handy at that moment.

Saul saw the enemy encroaching so fast yet Samuel seemed to be robbing powder and putting on some make up. Saul couldn’t understand why Samuel should delay at such a crucial moment. If Samuel had to delay, it shouldn’t be that moment. That period was too dangerous for any form of delay.
God does not arrive late. Don't allow the enemies encroachment to terrify you. Actually, it is in God's system to allow the enemies to get closer. Sometimes He may allow them to get so close to the point that you may think it's all over, then He will show His wonders.

King Saul offered the sacrifice when he saw his men retreating and the enemies approaching. He thought the enemies could strike any moment. He was thrown into panic.

When things are passing you by, you could be come frightened. It's easy to get frantic when it has worked for every other person except you. when all your mates are married, or got admission to higher institutions or had their babies or secure good jobs except you, tension will automatically build in your mind.

The devil would want to make it seem as if the enemy would run you over any minute. He will tell you that you are finished. It's all over for you. That's a lie. Nothing has passed you by. You're just as okay as any other person.

King Saul offered the sacrifice not only because the people were deserting him but also because the enemies (the Philistines) were approaching. He thought the enemy would attack him any moment; that threw him into panic.

Things didn't work out as I expected for a very long time in my own life. I watched as my friends and colleagues move ahead in life. I must admit that I became terrified at some point. It was as if heaven had abandoned me. I had no money, no wife, not even a room of my own. Those days I was doing best man for all my friends who were getting married but I didn't see a wife. No lady even tried to give me a try. I thought they had all run ahead of me.

It's very discouraging and intimidating when you think you are behind everyone especially
when you have no way to close up gap. Some of my friends married seven years or even more before me. At some point the honest ones asked me to go for deliverance. But the fact is that today I am married with three kids. The only difference between their kids and mine is age. Their children are older than mine but we all have our families. Most of them who were in better financial situation then are asking me for financial assistance today. When I looked back, I could see that they were not really ahead of me. Everyone has his life and his destiny to fulfill. It doesn't have to work for you the way it worked for another person.
CHAPTER FOUR:

WHAT CAUSES DELAY?

When we face or experience delay in any area of our life, it is important to find out the reason for the delay. Knowing what caused the delay would help you tackle it properly.

Delay could be caused by certain factors. Each of the factors would require different approach and prophetic action. Delay could be caused by the following:

**God at Work**

Most of the time, what we termed delay could be nothing but God's hand upon our lives. What seems like delay could be time allowed by God to strengthen up our lives and deal with some issues that if not dealt with could cause a strain in our lives.

There was no record that Abraham and Sarah had any health issue that could stop them from bearing children. There was equally no case of Satan being responsible for their childlessness. If they were medically and spiritually okay, then what must be responsible for their condition? The only reasonable answer is that God allowed that delay in order to iron out issues in Abraham's life.

Sometimes, God deliberately withholds some blessing just to draw our attention to Him or to some areas in our lives.

In dealing with delay, you must know the cause. Knowing the cause of the delay in your life will enable you to do what needs to be done. When a doctor gives the right diagnosis to an ailment, he would know the right medication or treatment to suggest for such sickness.
If the cause of delay in your life is spiritual, there will be no need applying natural method to solve it. You don’t have to spend unnecessary time and energy fasting and praying when your problem is lack of skill. Just get up and go learn the skill.

**Human Factor**

Delay can also be caused by human factor. Factors such as ignorance, wrong motive, and wrong approach to issues could cause delay in the life of a man or woman.

**Ignorance**

One of the major human factors that lead to delay is ignorance. Ignorance, they say is not an excuse. You are not exonerated because you are not aware of something. Ignorance does not make you innocent neither does it exonerate you from the consequences of your action. That you don’t know does not mean you will not suffer from whatever has gone wrong.

Nothing keeps an individual at a spot more than ignorance. Ignorance has two meanings: one of the meanings is to lack knowledge, which means you don’t know what you should know. You lack awareness. You are in the dark. The second meaning is to ignore. To ignore means to neglect or refuse to pay attention to a particular thing. You can suffer for what you don’t know but you regret for what you ignore.

I believe the second part of ignorance is deadlier than the first. Jesus tells us that if someone doesn’t know his master’s will and violates it, the person will be beaten with few stripes while the person that knows and refuses to act accordingly will be beaten with many stripes.

*And that servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that*
knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall he much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. Lk. 12:47-48

The Bible says “my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” Ignorance destroys. The children of Israel were delayed in their captivity in Babylon because they were not aware of the number of years they were supposed to spend as slaves. Daniel researched and discovered that they had already exceeded the years appointed for their captivity. He began to seek the face of God and was able to move the hand of God.

This affliction came upon them because they neglected God’s command for their lives.

The Devils Attack

Some delays in life are caused by the devil. The devil likes to hinder people’s blessing. You need to be sensitive to know who is at work. More often than not, the devil is the one fighting against you.

Daniel prayer was hindered by the prince of Persia (a demonic power) the angel Gabriel told Daniel that his prayer was answered the first day he started praying. The answer came twenty one days later because the devil withstood the angel that was bringing the answer.

Apostle Paul said that a great and effectual door was opened unto him but there were many adversaries. An adversary is one who opposes and hinders.

Hindrances and unnecessary delay are caused by the devil and his agents.

Some delay and trouble in marriages and relationships are caused by spirit wife or husband. There have been instances during deliverance when you discover that a spirit husband of wife
is responsible for a young man or lady not getting married or not being able have children or settle in the home front.

Some people have wondered how the so called spirit wife or husband got into their lives. The truth is that there are several avenues through which they can enter. Let me illustrate a personal experience.

When I got married new, I discovered I was having serious issues with my wife over things that were not really important. Each time we quarrel, we threatened to divorce. I didn’t want divorce neither did she yet each misunderstanding points to that. I went into prayers with a friend of mine. In the process, I began to see a spiritual personality telling me that my wife belonged to her. How come? She wasn’t married to someone else before I met her. At one point, the demon appeared in the form of a big snake laying claim over my wife.

Finally, I called my wife and told her what I’ve been experiencing. I asked if she had any idea about what was happening. She told me she had no idea. But the fact was that some spiritual force was laying claim over her life. When she became pregnant with our first baby, the battle intensified. The demon threatened to kill the baby arguing that my wife belonged to her. Then I had to sit my wife down to find out if she had been involved in any covenant. Well, not anyone she could remember. She had been a church person all her life. Then suddenly she remembered what her parent told her.

When she was very little, she couldn’t walk. Her parents tried all they could to make her walk but to no avail. Then her parents took her to a witch doctor who did some medicine or charm to help her walk. The moment we identified that and channel our prayers in denouncing every spirit
husband, the demonic force stopped appearing to me and our marriage received a measure of peace and sweetness.

Spiritual spouse can creep into your life through ancestral or family covenant. They could also come from ungodly sexual intercourse or other form of ungodly intermingling.

When spiritual spouse is at work, you are bound to experience delay. The solution is to break every ungodly soul tie with any spirit husband or wife. The Bible says that the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

Raise the banner of the blood of Jesus against every demonic wife or husband and destroy their link in your life.

Another way to identify spirit wife or husband is that they always come for sex whenever you are sleeping. Sometimes you wake up and could tell that someone had sex or was trying to have sex with you in the dream. Demonic spiritual spouse do that a lot. When they succeed in having sex with you, you will wake up to see things turn upside down in your life. For a pregnant woman, the result would be miscarriage. If you are a businessman, you will experience business failure or loss of job opportunities.

The blood of Jesus is strong spiritual weapon against spirit wife or husband.

**Pray This Prayer**

1. Let every satanic agenda that is programmed to cause delay in my life be destroyed by fire in Jesus name.
2. Any personality that has turned himself into an adversary against me, perish by fire in Jesus name.
3. Any demonic ideas that I have ignorantly accepted and is causing delay and hindrances
In my life be exposed and be destroyed in Jesus name.
CHAPTER FOUR:
WHY PEOPLE TAKE WRONG
DECISIONS WHEN THEY
EXPERIENCE DELAY

The devil uses delay to cause men and women to deviate from God’s will for their lives. When things are not working out the way you expect, the devil takes advantage of that to plant discouragement in your mind. He would want to lure you into taking a wrong decision. Certain factors are responsible for people taking wrong steps when they experienced delay.

Lack of Conviction

There are so many people who are not convinced about their faith. They easily move with the tides. They are in when it is rosy and out when it is not. Lack of conviction makes people take a detour when expectations delay in coming through.

Paul said “I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which is committed to him.”

Paul could not quit in spite of all the troubles he encountered because he had a conviction about the one he was following. It didn’t matter to Paul whether things went right or wrong. Situations, whether conducive or not didn’t affect Paul’s resolve. He remained steadfast at rosy and odd times.

Writing to the Philippians, he affirmed that he had trained himself to survive in all situations. He said that he knew how to abase and how to abound.
Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Phil. 4:11-13

Job, in the midst of his calamity said he would wait until God brings a change in his life.

If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Job 14:14

The prophet Habakkuk said “even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes in the vines; even though the olive crops fail, and the fields lie empty and barren, even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation. Hab. 3:17-18

When you are convinced, you don't quit.

Sarah prevailed on Abraham to go into Hagar her maid because she was not convinced God would come through on His promise.

The Israelites were not sure Moses would return consequently, they prevailed on Aaron to make them gods.

One area you need to guard diligently when you experienced delay is your conviction. You won’t quit as long as you are sure God is with you. You need a strong conviction to sail through a period of delay. Paul said “I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day.

Paul could not give up in spite of all his trials and tribulations because of his conviction. People with strong convictions stay till the end. They don’t quit no matter what.
You have to know that God doesn't make empty promises. He doesn't speak and forget like humans. Human beings don't always stay true to their promise. They are uncertain as the wind but not God. God is solid as a rock.

**How to Build Conviction**

Conviction is about being sure of what you are doing or knowing beyond any doubt that you won't fail. It is an assurance that cannot be weakened.

Talking about Abraham, the Bible says: He staggered not at the promise through unbelief but was strong in faith giving glory to God. What made him so strong and unmovable? He heard from God. He knew God spoke to him. He didn't get his message second hand. God didn't send someone to tell him. He heard and saw clearly.

*The secret of conviction is to know God for yourself; know the word of God for yourself; read it, study it, meditate on it.*

**Know That God Is With You**

When a man is sure of God's presence, nothing moves him. The psalmist says: though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me. Ps 23

The psalmist could fear no evil because he was sure of God's presence with him. He knew very well that God was there with him. Sometimes, it is difficult to know that God is with you when things are not working right. Ugly situation can make you think God has left but ugly situation is not a proof that God has abandoned you. It is just a proof that you are still flesh and blood. You still live in the world. Know that God is with you.

*Get a word from God about your situation. Search the Bible to find God's word concerning your situation. The word of God is the final authority for a Christian. Find out what God says.*
concerning you in that situation and hold on to it. Don't let it go. That is your sure bet out of that situation.

**Ignorance of the Operations of God**

When you don't know how God operates, you will faint when your case begins to experience unusual delay. In dealing with God, you must understand that He does not live in the realm of time. When you are counting ten years, God sees it as happening now. Your knowledge of time makes you think that God has forgotten.

Understand that God doesn't fail neither does He change. He watches over His word to fulfill it. It is your responsibility to hold on until you see the promise come through.

Also understand that God works in the past. All His works are concluded already. He is not going to do what you believe Him for; He has already done it.

Your case is already a concluded case before God. So, there couldn't have been any delay in what has already been delivered. Understand that, your case is already sorted.

The delay occurs between what God has already done and the manifestation of it in a man's life. You feel there is delay because you have not seen the physical manifestation. Stop expecting it to happen, see it as already done. Your faith is stronger from that angle. My healing is a done deal. My miracle is a done deal. I only need to call it forth.

As I write these lines, I am looking at my car parked in front of my house. It just materialized about two weeks ago. I have been praying and prophesying about it for years. I had dreamt about the car on several occasions in the past. I had told my wife and my friends that God has given me a car. I told them it is a beautiful car, yet
for many years I was trekking, no physical sign that I will get a car but, today as I write this chapter, it is parked in front of my house. The car wasn’t given to me two weeks ago. I had it even those times I was trekking. I was a car owner in the mind of God even when I could not buy a tire. The days I was dreaming about it, I was as much a car owner as I am today. The car has been part of my life in Gods mind. If I had gone through this life without owning the car, God would have been surprised that I did not use the car He provided to me.

People faint when they experienced delay because they are not aware that they already have what they are praying about or expecting. Peter tells us that Gods divine power has given to us all the things that pertain unto life and godliness. However, these provisions are accessible through the knowledge of him that called us to glory and virtue.

Understand that delay is not caused by God. When we experienced delay, it is always traceable to mans ignorance and the attack of the devil.

**People Faint Because They Look at Circumstances**

When Saul saw that the people were scattering and deserting him, he took the step he was not meant to take. King Saul allowed circumstance to derail him. When you focus on circumstance, you will lose hope.

What is happening around you is not a proof that you have failed. You haven’t failed because you did not get married when your mates were getting married or can’t get a child after several years of marriage.

*By faith, Abraham did not consider his own body or the deadness of Sarah’s womb. And being not weak*
in faith, he considered not his own body, now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb. Rom 4:19.

This portion of the scripture is actually telling us how Abraham pulled through the circumstances around him to get the blessing. He basically did not allow himself to be caught considering how impossible it is for a man of his age with a woman who had long past menopause to have a child. He refused to think about that. Any time such thought flashed through his mind, he would dismiss it by telling himself that God was in control. The contrast is King Saul, he would have as well encouraged himself by saying that the God who sent me to this battle will give me victory.

One of the greatest battles you will fight when you face delay is to take your eyes off situations around you. The Bible calls it the fight of faith. Fight to keep believing and keep hoping and the manifestation is as sure as the day.

**Inability to Withstand Pressure**

We are all under pressure to survive; the pressure of survival and success increases as you advance in age. You naturally come under intense pressure when your age can't match up with your accomplishment. Other people judge and evaluate you by what you have accomplished. So, accomplishment or success becomes the driving force of every normal human being on the earth.

Not everyone can withstand pressure especially when it comes from different angles at the same. Many are so gullible once they come under intense pressure. They can't take the heat. And once you can't take the heat, you succumb.

Aaron led the children of Israel into idolatry because he could not withstand the pressure from the people. They all gathered to demand for strange god because they were not sure about
Moses' return. Aaron knew they were making the wrong demand. He was supposed to correct them and lead them on the right path but he lost his leadership acumen because he couldn't withstand the pressure from the people.

*Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron and said to him 'come, make us gods that shall go before us for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of Egypt we do not know what has become of him.' (Exodus 32:1)*

With delay comes pressure. When expectations take longer time than expected, people become impatient and when they become impatient, they mount pressure on others. Beware of impatient individuals; they have the tendency to infest those around them with the same spirit.

Aaron's mistake was inspired by the people. You too will make a mistake if you allow people to put unnecessary pressure on you. Actually they will put pressure on you but you have to determine to take your stand. Tell them to give you time to think. If it's about your personal life, let them know it's your life and you're responsible for whatever decision you make.

**Inadequate Preparation**

People break down under the pressure of delay because they were not adequately prepared to face life. When your preparation is shallow, you are bound to run out when expectations take a little longer to manifest.

The five foolish virgin were not adequately prepared to meet the bridegroom. They never thought the bridegroom could delay his coming. They took the amount of oil they thought would be enough for the journey, the wise ones took extra oil. The extra was all that made the difference at last.
Life is full of uncertainties. Adequate preparation is a veritable answer to the uncertainties of life. If all you store is all you think would be enough, I asked you to add more to cater for any uncertainties that might come your way.

The foolish virgins lost out, not because they were bad people but because they were not fully prepared. It was delay that revealed their lack of depth; without the delay of the groom, they wouldn't have known that they were not fully ready. You need depth to outlast delay. That extra money, skill or education or prayer could be what would sustain you while you wait for your expectations to come through.

The Bible says that if you faint in time of adversity, your strength is small. If your strength is small, it means that you did not gather much. You have the responsibility to increase your strength.

Proverb tells us that you increase your strength as you increase your knowledge so, I can become more powerful or more resourceful than I am now by increasing my knowledge base. Any survival skill you learn adds extra oil to your life. This extra oil will sustain you when adversity or delay sets in.
CHAPTER FOUR:
HOW TO OVERCOME DELAY

Delay is not denial; it is just a time lag. A time of delay may not necessarily mean you are out of God’s program. Delay may mean that there is something wrong you need to fix. Your responsibility is to identify what it is and fix it.

I have identified some of the causes of delay as well as why people faint when they experience delay. However, it is important to know that delay can be overcome. A lot of people have overcome a time of delay to lay hold on God’s promises for their lives. I have experienced delay in my life and have also seen how a situation that seems impossible just suddenly turned around in my life.

There are several steps to take if you must overcome or pull through a time of delay.

Hold On to God’s Promises

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. Matt 24:35.

Here is Jesus speaking about the enduring power of God’s word. Jesus is giving us assurance that God would come through with His word no matter what.

A time of delay will not invalidate the words of Jesus. He will fulfill what He has promised. When you can’t see anything as yet, hold unto His promises, they are as real as their manifestation.

The prophet Isaiah reaffirms this in his prophecy: “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts” says the Lord, and my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine; for just as the heavens are higher
than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher your thoughts.

“The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the earth. They cause grain to grow producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same for my word, I send it out, and it always accomplishes all I want it to and it will prosper everywhere I send it. Isa 55:8-11 (NLT)

God's word will be fulfilled. The expectations of the righteous will not be cut off. So, if the righteous puts his expectations in God's word, the fulfillment is as sure as the day. You overcome delay by knowing that it is a matter of time. Habakkuk says that the vision is for an appointed time, at the right time it will speak and not lie, though it tarry, wait for it, for it shall not tarry, it shall come to pass. Hab 2:3

Delay is merely a passing phase. If your trust is in God, then what you expect will surely materialize.

**Follow God from The Inside**

God does not speak to our minds or our physical body. He speaks to our spirits. Consequently, only the spiritually sensitive will be able to follow God's direction.

To follow God from the inside means to follow Him with your spirit. Jesus says that the true worshippers will worship God in spirit and in truth for the Father seeks such to worship Him.

Those who follow God with inner conviction will not be stranded along the way. Paul says, for I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Paul is saying here that the circumstances surrounding our lives don't decide our lives. It is our conviction that does. Those who are pers-
suaded don’t quit. The assurance of God’s presence makes you unconquerable.

When you experience delay in your life, before you take any decision or throw in the tower, just do an inward check. Check what God is saying to you or what your heart is saying.

More often than not, the solution we seek is inside us. There in our heart or in our spirit. Situation could look so bad but there is that inward witness that tells you that help is on the way. That inward witness, my friend is more real than the adverse situation outside. Men and women have overcome obstacles and step into huge success by following that inward witness. Job was one of the numerous human beings who faced such difficult situations. His was so bad that his wife suggested he cursed God and died, but Job did not.

What was it that kept Job going in the face of such adversity? The answer is simple. He knew there was hope for him. He knew help was on the way. His statement confirms that

For I know that my redeemer lives and he shall stand at last on the earth and after my skin is destroyed, this I know that in my flesh I shall see God. (Job 19:25-26)

Job saw beyond his circumstances. He saw victory at last. He saw light at the end of the tunnel. Don’t give up; help is on the way.

**But When**

I was counseling with a lady in South Africa. She had lost her job and had no means of surviving with her two children. She not only had no job, she was also a single mother. This had made her situation very critical. She was not getting support from the father of her two kids. She looked pale and starved. She had been relying on the prophecy given to her about securing a job in the
mining industry. After three interviews she was informed she couldn't get the job. Of course you know such a lady would relapse into depression. I told her that help was on the way. She looked at me with an attitude of disappointment and asked: when will that be?

Honestly, it is difficult to be motivated when situation around you is so critical especially when it has come to the point of not meeting up with bills and basic necessities. The fact still remains that you have a responsibility of protecting your inner composture because that is where God will drop the solution. If you allow your mind and your inner man to be overtaken by turmoil, you will miss it when God comes.

Sometimes our delay is extended by our own actions. If we start acting as if the whole world is against us or as if we are the hardest hit, we make it more difficult to see the solution that is around us. Help is always around the corner for those who can trust God in times of difficulties.

Don't give up. God is standing right there beside you. The solution you seek is staring at your face. If you compose your inner man, you’ll identify the solution more easily.

**Be Stubborn against Pressure from Other People**

Sometimes the pressures of life are intensified by other people. Family and friends could mount unnecessary pressure on you. They may want to let you see how others are already far ahead of you. They show you how backwards you are and how your neighbor is already ten years ahead of you. The pressure from family and friends sometimes comes with good intention. We all need motivation or to be challenged sometimes but we don’t want anyone adding to the already tensed atmosphere around us by letting us see how bad things are around you.
When you face such pressure from family and friends be firm and tell them to give you some space.

I remember years ago when I started out in the ministry with a friend of mine. We were just young men in our early twenties. He had better fortune than I did. Life was much easier for him than for me. That didn’t affect our friendship except that some good brothers and sisters in the church would always want to show me the difference between the two of us.

One day a brother in the church boldly asked if it was the same God who called my friend that called me because they could see the difference in our dressing and general well-being. I quickly told him to mind his business and leave us alone. I told him it was too early to evaluate us on the basis of achievement. And truly as I speak now, after many years the same people can’t say I am lagging behind in any way.

Aaron led an entire community into error because he couldn’t withstand pressure from people. It wasn’t Aarons’ idea to make a golden calf; it was the peoples’ idea but he succumbed because he couldn’t withstand the pressure.

Don’t start looking for husband or wife by all means because your friend is married or because all your mates are married. Take your time to pray through and search for what you want. Tell whoever mounts pressure on you to hold their peace. After all, it is your life not theirs.

My friend I mentioned earlier married before me. We are age mates but he married seven years before I did. I was glad to be his best man even when I had no house of my own let alone a relationship that could lead to marriage. I attended the naming ceremony of his first child without having anyone who said yes to my proposal. Today I am happily married. You can still be
happy even when your dream has not yet come through.

In those days I had another friend who christened me "chronic bachelor." Each time we spoke on phone his hello would be "chronic bachelor when are you going to get a wife." He accused me of being afraid of women. He even said I was impotent. Each time I visited him, he would bring his wife to sit beside me. He said he wanted a woman's body to touch me perhaps that could help me to get more serious about looking for a wife. Well, this friend of mine meant good. He was only teasing. His was within normal proportion. However, others were more serious. Whether friendly or serious, be firm. Take your time to live your life.

Make Adequate Preparation

You don't have to live for a hundred years to know that this life is full of ups and downs. In fact in the first twenty years of your life that fact would have been engraved in the very depth of your being. The earlier you learn that, the better equipped you are in the race of life. Things don't always work out the way we planned them. Sometimes there are delays. The five foolish virgins didn't expect any delay from the bride groom. They took the amount of oil they felt would be adequate for their journey. This is what made them foolish. They acted as people who have never been engaged in the affairs of life. They should have known that things don't always work out as planned. So, taking extra caution would have saved the day.

People become frustrated when they face delay because they did not prepare adequately.

I started out in my early twenties as a minister of the gospel. I had a big dream of reaching the world with the gospel and I still do. After so many years, I couldn't fulfill my dream by rely-
ing on invitation to preach in churches. I went into education. I became a teacher in a secondary school. I discovered that that helped me to advance my dream.

What if I never went to school to acquire a skill for teaching? Perhaps, I would have been stranded.

It is important to learn anything you can learn. Acquire skills. They could serve as the extra oil you need in case of delay in your journey of life. While you wait to gain admission into a higher institution, you can use your musical skills, computer skills or any other skill to make a living.

Explore all the available channels around you. Don’t settle for only one thing. Most successful people in the world are not surviving on the original course they studied. Some are making it through the additional skill they acquired. The Bible has this admonition for everyone:

*Send your grain across the seas and in time, profits will flow back to you. But divide your investments among many places, for you do not know what risks might lay ahead* (Ecc 11:1-2)

Extra preparation could save the day in case of any unexpected detours.

The foolish virgin only prepared for the normal. Consequently, they had nothing to fall back on when their oil was drained by the spirit of delay.

Delay can drain and exhaust your oil. When that happens, you would need extra oil.

Those who took extra oil were called wise which means that wisdom is having the initiative to take along extra oil for your journey in case of unexpected delay. Don’t settle for the normal, prepare for the worst. Make preparation for eventualities; you don’t know what might happen along the way.
Don't be Idle

Idleness can lead to frustration and depression. Get involved in life activities.

One of the reasons delay gets really hard on some people is because they are idle. Time drags very slowly when you are doing nothing. When you fall into a deep sleep at night, the morning would be like a blink of an eye but when you can't sleep, it's like eternity.

Don't make the mistake of staying idle. Get involved in legitimate activities; it is more difficult to be idle than to have a job.

Pray

Another vital weapon against delay is prayer. Prayer can help you deal with the spirit of delay. I have a chapter on prayer in my book: How to keep demons out of your life. I will include it here for a better understanding on the power of prayer.

Prayer is our weapon against the dark forces. There is an assurance of victory in the crucible of prayer. God answers prayers and that's why the devil fears men and women of prayer.

Have you ever heard the saying: if you don't pray, you become a prey? That saying is true. Prayer releases the power and presence of God. Prayer is a means through which we fight our spiritual battles. Battles with demonic forces are not physical, they are spiritual. The Bible says that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, against power, against the rulers of the darkness of this world and against spiritual wickedness in high places Eph. 6:10

Prayer in a very simple definition means communicating with God. We can talk to God, and when we do, He hears us. He does not only hear us, He answers us. When He answers us, we re-
ceive the manifestation in form of deliverance from demonic harassment, breakthrough, healing and provision that we seek.

Now this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:4

God is not deaf, neither does He reside in some what abstract space beyond the reach of man. He is closer than our closest friend. He is even sensitive to our thoughts and feelings. He hears when we talk to Him and He responds appropriately to our request. He is pleased when we talk to Him and He talks back to us. He does not leave us in the dark when we call upon Him. He says; call upon me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things which you know not. (Jeremiah, 33:3)

Prayer is one of the most unique ways of maintaining closeness with God. The habit of prayer will actually bring you into intimate relationship with God. When you maintain closeness with God, demons will not oppress you.

**Why Do We Pray?**

Actions are not always arbitrary unless one is in sane. We do things with reasons. We pray because there are things we want to accomplish. If your prayer is without any reason, it may not achieve a definite result. There are several reasons why we pray.

**We Pray For Relationship**

Our desires to relate with our maker lead us into prayer most of the time. Prayer is a very good way of maintaining intimate relationship with God. There is something unique about having the assurance that you are in a relationship with God.

Communication is the vehicle through which we enrich and maintain relationship with other
people. We are fulfilled when we talk to other people and have them talk to us. It is the same with our relationship with God. We feel fulfilled when we have a good relationship with God.

Constant communion with God helps us develop sensitivity which in turn exposes any demonic activities around our lives.

We Pray For Needs

Man is not self-sufficient. We have various needs some of which are beyond our power; consequently, we rely on God to meet such needs.

Provision

What to eat, what to drink, what to put on, where to live, means to go about our businesses, our educational needs, social needs, material needs and spiritual need are all reasons why we pray.

We need God's provision in our lives; prayer is a means of making our needs known to God. Jesus taught us to ask the father to give us our daily bread or daily needs. There are so many things we can't get by our power, we need God to help us get them.

Protection

Another area we need God and for which we pray is our safety. We live in a world full of dangers. We cannot be careful enough. We need His protection from Satan and his agents. There are demonic arrows that fly by day and by night. There are both spiritual and man-made dangers.

Man is under attack from spiritual forces. The devil and his demons are all around hunting human-being with all kinds of weapons.

You need God to keep you safe from their onslaughts. The Bible says: The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe Prov. 10:18. Prayer is one of the ways man
can draw God’s protection upon his life. Your prayer can bring safety upon you and your loved ones.

Guidance

Another reason we pray is for guidance. Man is limited in scope. He does not know what will happen the next minutes or the next day. He needs someone who knows the way to guide him. Man needs someone who knows everything to tell him or enlighten him on the thing he does not know. The only one who can do this is God himself. The scripture says: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and he will direct your path (Psa. 37:1).

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eyes Ps 32:8

Guidance is very important to anyone who wants to fulfill God’s purpose for his/her life. To receive guidance from God, you must pray.

Ask and you shall receive Matt 7:1. When you ask God to direct you, He will.

Some of the misfortunes we experienced in life are the result of not being properly guided. There are some mess and needless pains we have gone through in life because we did not seek guidance from God. Sometimes we yoke up with people who have no business being in our lives or have anything whatsoever to do with our lives.

Paul and the rest of the people in the ship bounded for Rome suffered shipwreck because the crew members refused to listen to him. He said. Men, you should have listened to me in the first place and not left fair heavens – you would have avoided all the injury and loss Act 27:16

That is it, injury and loss. These are always the results of not listening to guidance from God. Many people are nursing the injuries and loss
they incurred from entangling themselves in relationship and situations God did not send them. If we asked God before we take any major steps, our lives would be better for it. We will avoid some injuries.

Well, I have good news for you; thank God you are not dead. Cheer up; God still has a lot in store for you. Take your injury and loss as a lesson. Let go of the past and brace up for the journey ahead. Paul said to the people. But cheer up. Not one of us will lose our lives even though the ship will go down (Act 27:22 TCB)

Your ship may have been wrecked (Your relationship business, job, ministry) but your life is preserved because there is something God has ordained you to accomplish on the face of the earth.

Paul was ordained to testify before Caesar in Rome (Act 23:11) No ship wreck or attack of the enemy could stop him. Seek God’s guidance before you take an important step.

**We Pray For Defense**

Prayer is also an instrument of warfare. We use prayer to fight against the enemy (devil). When we pray, we push back the invading forces of darkness against our lives. We use prayer to dismantle the citadel of demonic powers working against God’s purpose for our lives.

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds II Cor. 4:3.

Prayer is one of the means through which we uproot every plant that our heavenly father has not planted in our lives. When we pray, we destroy the will of the devil and of the flesh and establish God’s will for our lives.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. This is part of the content of the
Lord's Prayer. Prayer brings down the hand of God to fulfill His will on earth.

Praying Always

The Bible admonishes that we pray always. Prayer is such a serious business that the Bible says it should be done at all times. Why that? It is the weapons of warfare. You can't fight your wars effectively without an effective prayer life.

Prayer can be said anywhere and at any time. The length of time you pray is not as important as your consistency in prayer. Consistency is the key. You need to keep praying. The Bible says that we should pray without ceasing. We are also admonished to pray all kinds of prayers. This simply means that there is nothing too big or too small to take to God in prayer.

A consistent prayer life will keep demons away from you. The devil hates prayerful Christians. He knows they are dangerous to his kingdom initiatives. They thwart his plans through their prayers. He tries all he can to stop them.

Prayer is too heavy for so many people but talking is not. Isn't prayer the same thing as talking? It is, but the difference is that there are forces that are frustrated by your prayer; your talking does not affect them in anyway. So, they fight to stop you from praying but not from chatting.

Pray About Everything

Some people believe they shouldn't pray about everything. They believe that to pray about everything is to push the whole responsibility of your life to God. It is not. Talking to God about everything does not take away your responsibility.

God is interested in everything about our lives. There is nothing you cannot talk to Him about. If He took note of the strands of the hairs on your head, what makes you think He is not interested
in the clothes you wear or the food you eat or the relationship you keep?

He desires to provide guidance in every area of our endeavors. He is interested in every of His children’s steps. The Bible tells us that the footsteps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.

He knows everything. He can do all things. This is what makes Him God. So, what do I have to lose by telling Him about how I feel, the struggles of my life, my fears and even my greed and ambitions. After all, He knows about them without me telling Him.

So, telling Him about them just removes every sense of secret I thought that exists between me and Him.

The Bible tells us to make our request known to God Phil.4:6

Praying earnestly and sincerely about issues in our lives makes us less fretful about such issues.

You can talk to God about your lust and dirty desires. Your secrets are safe with Him. He is not a tale bearer or a busybody. He is a father and a friend.

Pray Anyhow

People always claim they don’t know how to pray. They are looking for a pattern that is more acceptable to God and one that guarantees a quicker answer. Good a thing, there are no such patterns. Whether you start your prayer with praising and giving thanks or by out rightly asking for what you need may not matter as much as your faith in the God that answers prayers.

I am not advocating disorderliness in our approach to God. I am saying you need not know so much about prayer before you can pray.

Blind Bartimus didn’t have to learn special Jewish prayer before he approached Jesus. He simply
shouted: Jesus son of David have mercy on me!
That caught the attention of Jesus and he got his
miracle. You can cry out for help and expect God
to hear you. He will.

PRAYER

➤ I command every of my blessing that is hang-
ing to be released right now in Jesus name
➤ Father God, let all my years of delay be re-
stored to me in hundred fold in Jesus name
➤ I command every demonic force on assign-
ment against my life to fall and be destroyed in
Jesus name
➤ Let every obstacle put on my way to delay my
progress be removed right now in Jesus name
➤ I recover every stolen blessing in my life in
Jesus name.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Ijeh is a dynamic preacher and teacher of God's word. He is the president of John Ijeh World Outreach. The Lord spoke to him on the 15th of December, 1997 to take His Word to the nations of the world and call God's people out of the world's captivity and satanic bondage. In response to this divine mandate, John ministers the word of God in churches, crusades, conferences and seminars and youth outreaches both within and outside Nigeria. He has also written several books. He lives in Lagos, Nigeria with his lovely wife, Mercy Ijeh and they are blessed with three children: Lovelyn, Praisel and Daniel.