



Sermon:

The Beauty of the Rainbow

Have you ever asked God for something but it seemed like it took forever to get an answer? I would guess that at times we would even wonder if He ever heard us? When we pray, we sometimes give God a deadline, and then as we get closer to that deadline we originally set, we begin to become discouraged and concerned that He may not answer simply because we see nothing happening. Is that familiar? Then when the deadline that we set comes and goes without anything seemingly happening, we say, “Why didn’t God answer our prayer?”

Maybe this will help ... I was praying for a good Christian friend of mine whom I cared for very much. It appeared as if her life was at a standstill, not going anywhere. She seemed to be stuck in a place she couldn’t get out of. I believe when we get in those places, it’s because of a lack of knowledge in some area. Hosea 4:6 says: “*My people are destroyed from a lack of knowledge.*” I believe my friend needed a revelation of who she was in Christ and what was done for her at the cross. So I prayed for three years that she would receive a revelation of God’s love and plan for her life.

What did I do in the meantime while I was praying? Really, NOTHING. I just loved my friend through it all. I never judged her for anything; I just loved her. Then SUDDENLY, things changed. She got her revelation from the Holy Spirit. Within just a couple of weeks her life was turned around in a completely different direction.

I was driving on the highway shortly after that and I saw a rainbow. About 5 miles down the road, I saw yet another rainbow. I thought this was odd because we very rarely see more than one rainbow in a day and sometimes months would go by before seeing another one. It is indeed rare. About ten minutes after that, I saw a fully arched rainbow. It was beautiful! Before my ride was over, I saw three more rainbows on that same road! It was then that I asked God if He wanted to tell me something.

The words flowed like honey. He said: “*The flood is over for your friend. No more fear, worry, anxiety, or confusion. There will be clarity and joy and peace. This is New Beginnings for her.*” Then I thought about the flood in Genesis 6 through 8. God saw that the earth was corrupted and filled with violence (6:12-13) so he destroyed it with a flood. But then He sent the RAINBOW as a promise that He would never flood the earth again.

My friend WAS in the flood, but now living in the RAINBOW - the promise of New Beginnings. It's important that I make one thing very clear here. Although God sent the flood in the days of Noah, He did NOT send these problems into my friends life. God NEVER, EVER brings trials into our lives. We are now living under a New Covenant with Jesus, who took the wrath of God upon Himself. God no longer brings judgment, but rather blessings, if we can learn how to receive them. Again, anything we struggle with in life is a result of a lack of knowledge.

Here's what I wanted to get across to you: If you are praying for something or someone, DO NOT GIVE UP. If it looks like nothing is happening, SOMETHING IS HAPPENING! And during times of waiting, we must believe that it's done and continue to give thanks to God for it. God is always working behind the scenes to accomplish His will. We must walk by faith and not by what we see (2nd Corinthians 5:7) and have patience and assurance that God is good and will answer every prayer that is in accordance with His will. We just have to trust in His love for us.