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## **PATIENCE WITH GOD'S PROMISES**

**“Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay.” (Hebrews 10:37)**

**One of the difficulties with promises is waiting. In New Testament times, some faithful believers thought God was delaying the fulfillment of the promises of Christ's return. Near the end of his second letter, Peter speaks directly to unrest and skepticism about Christ's reappearing, and does so in a way that throws light on the whole issue of God's apparent delays, whether in the past or as may arise in the future. Says Peter,**

**“The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance....count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.” (2 Peter 3:9, 15).**

**Our desire for instant action in response to our prayers reflects the limitation and smallness of our view of things compared with God's. God fixes His time for doing what He has promised (and what His people look to Him to do) in light of long-term purposes of goodness and wisdom involving far more than we can ever be aware of. “That all should reach repentance is a case in point: Who were Peter's first readers, and who are you and we today, to compute God's “all”?”**

**The principle that Bible believers must grasp is that it is God's prerogative to do what He promises in what He knows to be the best and wisest way, at what He knows to be the best and wisest time. Seeing this will help us to develop the patience and settled trust that God desires to shape in us, and will stabilize our hope when our hearts move us to pray, “Lord, how long?” AMEN.**

**~Dr. J.I. Packer**

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20*

