

## **SPIRITUAL SHORTCUTS**

Psalm 27:14 ... "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart; wait I say, on the Lord."

One of the hardest things for many Christians, is to find that God works in his own time and in his own way. We want instant gratification, instant solutions, and instant pain relief. Very few of us are willing to patiently wait for God to answer our prayers, meet our needs, and satisfy our desires. Our modern world, which has so many instant products, entertainment, and conveniences has made us even more impatient.

So when God is not as responsive as we think he should be, we take matters into our own hands. We create shortcuts; our solutions to our problems so we do not have to wait for God to do his thing. Some borrow money they do not have, to buy things they do not need. They may even borrow money for things they think they need, even though they have no ability to pay it back. By the way, borrowing money – especially at the high interest rates of microfinance groups and loan sharks – gets you into more trouble than you were trying to get out of in the first place. Borrowing money against a salary you have not yet earned, may lead you into greater hardship.

Sometimes shortcuts save you time without much risk. Other shortcuts, such as cooking rice you have not cleaned of gravel, can lead to a cracked tooth. Driving on the wrong side of the road can get you killed. Wanting a baby so much that you get pregnant without having a husband, can plunge you into greater poverty. Marrying a man that is not of your faith, can lead to a miserable life for you, him and your future children. A pastor who takes money from church offerings for his own pleasure, will find himself separated from the same Christ he supposedly serves.

God does not have to wait for anything. He created the universe by speaking a word. He is in full control of that universe and everything and everyone in it. He is without limits. You may see no reason at all for God not to instantly transform your little home into a mansion. He certainly has the ability. Why does he not work in that way? Because most of the things we want, and the decisions that face us, affect other people. God sees the big picture. By submitting to his way and his timing, you can be assured that when he answers your prayer or blesses you, his action will not hurt others. We do not have that ability. We might even willingly allow others to suffer by taking shortcuts. The answer is simple: wait for God to intervene in your life in the perfect way needed, and in a manner that aligns with his will for your life and the lives of others around you. It is the only way to peace with God, and peace in your life.

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