

how long will you wait?

"though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls – yet i will rejoice in the Lord, i will joy in the God of my salvation." hab 3:17-18

the other day i felt a question forming in my mind. i cannot say it was the Holy Spirit per se, but it was certainly birthed in the spirit realm. the question was, "how long will you wait?" the scripture that immediately came to mind was when Jesus asked peter repeatedly three times, "do you love Me?" i know it is not exactly the same situation, but often hope delayed can turn to denial.

i wonder how many of us have repeatedly been disappointed; at a rapture date, at an answer to prayer, at a seeming "distance" from Him. we have all known disappointment at some point in our walk. after all, it is a walk of faith. "without faith it is impossible to please Him." heb 11:6

disappointment - "His appointment"
whose? the Lord's who loves me best
understands and knows me fully
who my faith and love would test

for like loving earthly parent
He rejoices when He knows
that His child accepts, unquestioned,
all that from His wisdom flows

well He knows each broken purpose
leads to fuller, deeper trust
and the end of all His dealings
proves our God is wise and just

"'for My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,'" says the Lord, 'for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.'" isa 55:8-9
it makes one also admit, His time is not our time, but He's always "on" time.

i don't know how anyone else would reply if the Holy Spirit should ask that question, only myself. i will wait forever. not because my faith is greater or because i might consider myself more "spiritual" than another; not because my works are more or less zealous than others. you see, "it is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord." lam 3:26 surely our hope can be in nothing else.

we know the promise has been made, ere it is coming, we know not when. "though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." hab 2:3 God, who cannot lie has spoken it.

after all, who are we talking about here? an "omni" God. the three "omni" attributes of God characterize him as all-powerful, all-knowing, and everywhere present. each of these involves the other two, and each provides a perspective on the all-embracing lordship of the true God.

omnipotence means that God is in total control of Himself and His creation.

omniscience means that He is the ultimate criterion of truth and falsity, so that His ideas are always true.

omnipresence means that since God's power and knowledge extend to all parts of His creation, He Himself is present everywhere.

together they define God's lordship, and they yield a rich understanding of creation, providence, and salvation.

there used to be a song long ago, sung i believe by johnny mathis. it was called "the twelfth of never." it goes something like, "you ask how long i'll love you ... until the twelfth of never ... and that's a long, long time." the title is a popular expression, which is used as the date of a future occurrence that will never come to pass. faith, hope and love - they must always be our constant companions.

yes, this "God" who created all things, has deigned to receive those who are willing as a companion for His most beloved Son. why would anyone not wait and hope forever?