



LIFE NEWS

Stuck in an Airport

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Nothing. There was nothing I could do. It was out of my control. I had to wait. Normally, I don't mind being in an airport for a while. I'd rather spend an extra hour or two in an airport than miss a close connection. A few weeks ago, my flight went from being at 10 AM to 7 AM. Okay... it meant I had to get up way earlier and make it there; no big deal.

I made it to the airport, through security, and got on the plane in plenty of time. Then I waited for 45 minutes on the runway. The flight finally landed, and luckily, I had around a 6-hour layover. Then the dreaded text, "Your flight has been delayed 2 hours" (it was still 4 hours from when it was originally supposed to land)." I switched my flight for something closer to my original time, and then that flight got delayed to a time even later than the first flight. There was nothing I could do at that point but wait and drink another coffee. Nothing!

Most of us don't like to wait, especially with the increase in technology in the last 30 years. I am often guilty of checking my phone's email because it is taking "forever" for my work computer to start up. Or I am quickly scanning to see which line at Walmart will move the fastest (I never get the right one). Some people—and you know who you are—enjoy weaving in and out of the freeway traffic to win some imaginary race home. Humans prefer instant answers (Hey Alexa).

This is not how it always works with God in prayer. Jesus tells a parable in Luke 18 about a widow and a judge. The judge didn't care about God or what people thought of him. Yet, time after time, the widow came to him begging for justice against her adversary. He kept refusing her until he finally decided to grant her plea. He granted her justice.

At the beginning of the chapter, we are told this parable is to show his disciples that they should always pray and not give up. It ends by saying this, "And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you; he will see that they get justice and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" It would have been so easy for the widow to lose hope for the justice she was due, but she kept going. How often do we shoot up one prayer and say hey, that's good enough? God calls us to this type of persisting prayer, especially when we are seeking his justice on an issue.

Don't stop seeking God on an issue until you hear his voice. Don't lose hope because you haven't clearly seen how God is moving. Take comfort in the promise from the Psalm, "I waited patiently for the LORD, he inclined to me and heard my plea." God is near to you as you cry out to him.