



From the pastor...

## THE DISCIPLINE OF DELAY!

Someone once said, “God’s delays are not His denials.” I don’t like delays and have wrestled with the whys of delays in my life. You have too. Why does it take so long to get well? Why is it taking so long for me to get that job? Why doesn’t God answer my prayers? Scripture reveals that others have faced delays in their lives. And they didn’t like it either. But God was in the delays and He worked His will in His time.



Abraham was 75 when God first promised him descendants (Gen. 12:2-4). He repeated His promise several times (Gen. 12:7; 13:16; 15:5) and Abraham believed that God would do it (15:6). But it didn’t happen. Why the delay? They had waited 8 years! Abraham and Sarah worked out a way for it to happen, without delaying any longer. Hagar, Sarah’s handmade, had Ishmael by Abraham and so now Abraham had an heir. Abraham was 84 when Ishmael was born. When Abraham was 99 God revealed to Abraham that Ishmael was not the fulfillment of His promise, Isaac would be (Gen. 17:19). Abraham was 100 years old when the promised son was born. So, there was a delay of 25 years from the initial promise to its fulfillment. Abraham made some serious mistakes during the delay, just as we sometimes make mistakes when God makes us wait. Yet God was faithful to Abraham and to His promises. God’s delay was not His denial.

Joseph was 17 years old when he antagonized his brothers with his dreams (Gen. 37:2, 5-10). Those dreams indicated that he would one day rule over them. God arranged some tough circumstances to bring this about. In their hostility, the brothers captured him and sold him into slavery. Joseph wound up in Egypt, first being a servant to Potiphar, and then spending an extensive time in an Egyptian prison. But, “in the fulness of time” God raised Him up to rule over Egypt (Gen. 41) and, ultimately, over his family (Gen. 46). Since Joseph was 30 years old when he became the “Prime Minister” over Egypt, he experienced a delay of 13 years for the fulfillment of his dreams. Those years of delay were discouraging and rough for him. Sometimes our delays are discouraging and rough. But God’s delay was not His denial.

David was in his teens when he was anointed king over Israel by the prophet Samuel (1 Sam. 16:13). He did some mighty feats in killing Goliath and gaining victory over the Philistines. Yet, King Saul became extremely jealous of David and for years tried to kill him. David was at least 30 when he actually became king after Saul was killed in a battle with the Philistines. The leaders of the tribe of Judah anointed him king over the house of Judah (2 Sam. 2:4). Seven years later the leaders of the other tribes of Israel came to Hebron and David became the king over all Israel, just as the Lord had promised through Samuel. Those years of delay were years of danger and discouragement, grief and groaning, fleeing and fighting (Ps. 31:9-13). But they were also years of personal maturity and spiritual growth in David so that his trust in God deepened (Ps. 31:14-24). Because of the delay, David was a better king than he would have been. God will use our delays to make us better and to draw us closer to Him. God’s delay was not His denial.

Are you frustrated about a delay that you are enduring right now? Maybe God is speaking to you as He spoke to me one time, “You have need of patience that, after you have done the will of God, you shall receive the promise” (Hebrews 10:36). God’s delay in my life was not His denial.

Henry Hazard

Our **Men's Meeting** for May will be May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. @ the church. Sign up on the foyer table at church.



**Great Commission Women**

Will meet for food and fellowship on May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. @ the Church! Sign up on the sheet on the foyer table if you plan to come.



**“YOUNG AT HEART” –**

For May will have lunch at PoFolks on 15<sup>th</sup> Street on May 19<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 a.m. Don't miss it!



will perform for us on Sunday evening, May 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. before heading on their summer tour!

**Graduation Recognition** will be held on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>. Graduating are:  
**Logan Bush:** High School,  
**Lyndsay Griner:** Chipola College,  
**David Holmes:** Gulf Coast State College,  
**Janna Blankenship:** FSU – PC,  
**Deborah Stormer:** PCC  
 A Dinner will be held on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> in their honor.

**GREAT COMMISSION SUNDAY**

Collection will be Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>.



**Outdoor Fellowship** Sunday evening, May 28<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 p.m. We will have an inflatable water slide for the kids to enjoy. BBQ Chicken & hamburgers will be provided, please bring side dishes – enough for you and another family to enjoy.  
*The youth will be doing a dessert auction to raise funds during this event! Bring money to buy your desserts!*

**The Christian & Missionary Alliance Biennial Council**

will be held in Columbus, Ohio, May 30-June 4, 2017. If you would like to attend to see what goes on at the Council and hear some of the guest speakers, you can do so by registering as a Corresponding Delegate at the Alliance website [www.cmalliance.org/council17](http://www.cmalliance.org/council17). Council ends on Sunday, June 4, with a special Parade of Missionaries. It is very inspiring. On Monday, June 5, you may want to join the Hazards as they visit the **Ark Encounter** and the **Creation Museum** in Williamstown, Kentucky.

**Anna Holmes 'Taipei Trip'**

I wanted to say a HUGE thank you to those who have given toward my six-week trip to Taipei, Taiwan this summer. The amount you gave will help to cover ground costs and may be used for some airfare as well. Please continue to keep me in your prayers as I get ready to go, and that I would be willing to be used by the Lord in the way He desires.

By His Grace,  
 Anna Holmes



Will meet on Sundays, May 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

**Facts & Figures**

**Finances for April**

**For Apr 1 through Apr 30**

General Operating Fund (GOF) Monthly Budget:	\$ 18,655.00
GOF Tithes & Offering Received( 5 Sundays):	\$ 21,200.94
General Operating Fund Weekly Budget:	\$ 4,305.00
GOF Avg. Weekly Tithes & Offerings (5 Sundays):	\$ 4,240.19

**For Year to Date 2017, (based on 4 months and 18 Sundays):**

GOF Year to Date (YTD) Tithes and Offerings Budget (monthly basis):	\$ 74,620.00
GOF Funds YTD Tithes and Offerings Budget (weekly basis):	\$ 77,490.00
GOF Year to Date Tithes and Offerings Received:	\$ 86,939.35
GOF Year to Date Budgeted, Non Budgeted Disbursements (\$5,995 for new printer/copier) and Transfers to Other Funds:	\$ (81,440.67)
GOF Receipts vs GOF Disbursements and Transfers to Other Funds:	\$ 5,498.68
GOF Balance as of Apr 30 (193% of monthly budget):	\$ 36,076.76
Average Weekly Tithes and Offerings Received (18 Sundays):	\$ 4,829.96
YTD Avg Weekly GOF Budgeted & Non Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers:	\$ (4,524.48)
Missions YTD Income: Receipts (\$4,040) & 24% of Tithes and Offerings (\$20,863.04)	\$ 24,903.04
Missions Fund YTD Disbursements:	\$ (17,723.95)
Missions Fund Balance:	\$ 10,906.75
Building Fund YTD Receipts including \$2,925 In Memory Of Gifts:	\$ 3,175.67
Building Fund YTD Disbursements: 60% downpaymt on new telephone switch system	\$ (1,300.00)
Building Fund Balance:	\$ 5,761.16
Associate Pastor Fnd YTD Receipts:	\$ 4,631.00
Associate Pastor Fnd YTD Disbursements: Compensations out of Assoc Past Fnd:	\$ (12,000.00)
Associate Pastor Fnd Balance:	\$ 18,398.51