RAPHAEL O. AJIBOYE



Can GOD Use DELAY?

DISCOVER HOPE, PURPOSE AND GOD'S GOODNESS IN THE SEASONS OF WAITING

DEDICATION

To you, dear individual, feeling stuck and confused about what God's plan and purpose for your life are.

May this book shine light into your heart.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



In Loving Memory of My Mother
Late Esther Onaolapo Ajiboye

Some people do not merely give birth to you; they invest their lives in you. They labour when the harvest is not yet visible, give when the results seem distant, and keep believing through seasons that are difficult to understand. My mother, Late Esther Onaolapo Ajiboye, was one of those people.

Mummy, this book is a tribute to your labour, sacrifices, and investment in my life. There are things a mother does that words can never fully capture. Some sacrifices may go unseen by the world, but their fruits continue to speak through the life they helped shape.

When I reflect on the message of Can God Use Delay?, I cannot separate it from the testimony of your life. You showed me that God can do anything, no matter the delay, troubles, uncertainty, or challenges life may bring. Your labour was not in vain, and your investment was not wasted.

This book is for people who are waiting, who are trying to understand their circumstances, and who wonder whether difficult seasons can give way to something beautiful. As I share this message, I honour the people whose lives have helped shape my understanding of hope, perseverance, and the goodness of God. You are one of them, Mummy.

Thank you for your labour. Thank you for your investment in me. I carry its fruits into the work I do, the lives I serve, and the message I share. May this book continue to testify that God remains good and that no delay or trouble is beyond His ability to work for His glory.

With love, honour, and gratitude,
Raphael O. Ajiboye

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATION.....i

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....ii

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....iii

INTRODUCTION.....1

YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH DELAYS, YET YOU'RE STILL HERE!.....2

GOD IS GOOD, THAT'S ENOUGH!.....4

DO YOU CAUSE DELAY?.....9

DOES GOD USE DELAY?.....13

HOW GOD ALLOWS AND USES DELAY.....17

DELAY PRODUCES EXCELLENT CHARACTER AND TESTIMONIES.....27

OTHER STORIES OF DELAY.....29

YES! GOD USES DELAY.....33

PRAYERS.....42

INTRODUCTION



This book is written for everyone that has experienced delays and that might likely experience delays in one thing or the other. This book is the hope you need as you navigate a delayed phase of your life and it's the assurance you have for every delay you've experienced. In this book, you will read about different personalities that are responsible for delays and to know the solution each personality requires. In this book, I addressed the root cause of delays and not just the surface.

Finally, in this book, you will have the Lord Jesus revealed to you and you will see how the consciousness of who He is, what He's done, and what He's doing ensures your past delays, your present delays and your future delay are no delays because the Lord Jesus is your life now. It's my hope that as you read this book page by page, you'll have the Lord Jesus in your heart become so big that the presence of delay is not noticed in your life. My friend, I'm glad to let you know, you can reign in life despite the delay you've had, you can reign in life in the midst of any delay you currently have and you will reign in life if you experience delay later in life!

Chapter One

YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH DELAYS, YET YOU'RE STILL HERE!



You've endured enough delays, yet you're still here. I have a question for you: How did you do it?

If you're reading this, it's proof that you've faced delays. Yes, you have; you've experienced delays. I'm glad you can't remember because that means you've moved past that phase of your life. But I have a question for you: how did you do it? Maybe you're currently experiencing a form of delay, or a delay is likely to happen in the coming weeks, months, or years. I have a question for you: how did you manage to stay alive, knowing you were experiencing a delay and that you will likely experience one in the near future?

Do you recall the waiting you once endured? Waiting at the bus stop for the bus, waiting for the teacher or lecturer to arrive in class, waiting for your parents to give you what you asked for, waiting for your employer to pay you,

waiting to have a baby, waiting for someone to say "I love you," waiting for customers, and so on. Do you remember those moments of anticipation?

Perhaps not anymore. You've moved beyond that phase and those hours of waiting. The question is, how did you manage it?

> ***Our lives are comprised of countless moments of waiting and delays, yet here we are today. Have you ever wondered how we made it through all those waiting hours and eventually arrived at where we are now? The answer is found in the one who upholds all things, the Lord Jesus. He connected the dots for us, and now, we can't even remember those annoying, sad, and questionable delays.***

If you look closely, you will notice that all the delays you've experienced didn't stop you. Yes, you might have missed out on a lot of things, but from where you are now, still having life in you, especially the life of Jesus, it's as if you never experienced any delay. Let me tell you, someone worked with those delays to ensure that you have the level of success you have today and will continue to have in life.

His name is Jesus!

Chapter Two

GOD IS GOOD, THAT'S ENOUGH!



There is so much about God that remains unknown to us, and it's this lack of understanding that has led to the suffering and exploitation of many. However, I acquired profound wisdom years ago that I want to share with you: Do not allow your ignorance about God to render the knowledge you do have irrelevant. Never make that mistake!

I may not comprehend God's actions at times, but I am absolutely certain that GOD IS GOOD. At this moment, you might be uncertain about whether God is obstructing a process or if you fear He might. I want you to grasp this fundamental truth: He is GOOD! Perhaps you're questioning whether God can procrastinate or not; that's perfectly fine. Just recognize this: His goodness knows no bounds.

You might have convinced yourself that He has delayed certain miracles. Let me assure you, my friends, He is undeniably good! When it comes down to

it, God is good, and that truth settles everything! Live your life from a place of understanding that God is exceedingly good, regardless of the delays you might be experiencing.

Does Satan Cause Delay?

Does the devil delay things? This question finds its answer in understanding the nature of the devil. He is known by many names, each revealing an aspect of his character. At the top of the list is the fact that the devil is a liar. Scripture affirms that he is the father of lies.

In ***John 8:44***, it is stated:

> *"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies"*
>
> (NIV)

The term "liar" is intricately linked with denial and delay. Wherever there is falsehood, delay inevitably follows, often resulting in outright denial. Consider the story of a young man poised to assume a prestigious position in an office; he was the prime choice for that season.

In the same workplace, the man faced competition from colleagues vying for the same position. Ironically, these very colleagues were responsible for preparing all the necessary paperwork. Selfishness took hold, leading to lies and deliberate delay in completing the paperwork, shirking their duties instead of acting promptly. Their actions nearly deprived the man of his rightful privilege to assume the position. However, the situation took a turn when a senior executive from the head office arrived, questioning the delay and holding everyone involved accountable.

Due to the prolonged delay, the senior executive promoted the deserving man to a higher position than initially intended. This elevated role came with increased wealth, power, and influence.

Perhaps your delay is caused by human nature, self-doubt, or even external forces, but fear not, my friend. If you seek salvation, there is a heavenly senior executive named Jesus, waiting in the head office of heaven. By turning to Him, your delays will vanish, and what once seemed like denial will transform into promotion and success.

I want to ask you a question: between God and the devil, who do you think wants to cause a delay for you in anything? Who wants to deny you what you rightfully deserve, God or Satan? We already know the answer; it's the devil, of course!

The Bible talks about a fight to ensure no delay for Mr. Daniel.

> *"Then he said to me, 'Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia."*
>
> ***(Daniel 10:12-13 NKJV)***

For every prince of Persia that causes a delay in your life, there is always a CHIEF PRINCE WHO WILL COME TO HELP YOU. Rejoice!

With God, you receive answers in less than a day. In fact, you receive answers even before you ask or pray because all things belong to you. However, with Satan, we often experience at least a twenty-one-day delay. It's important to remember that God has no intention of delaying things for you, although He might challenge you to grow faster.

> ***Don't confuse your growth process with a delay; if you listen attentively to the Lord, He will clearly indicate whether you are growing, need to grow, or if it's indeed a delay.***

Many people experience delays that last not just 21 days, but sometimes even months or years. I don't know what your delays have been or will be, but it must be clear to you that God is not the cause. If God is not behind these delays, perhaps your actions or inactions are. Regardless of your deeds, remember that the devil has nothing good to offer and he does everything possible to hinder the arrival of all that is good in your life. In fact, he capitalizes on your errors to ensure these delays.

So, the question arises again: does the devil cause delays? The answer is crystal clear: YES, YES, and YES! Why? Because the devil is inherently evil!

Chapter Three
Do You Cause Delay?



Do you cause delay or experience delay? It might seem like a daunting question, but let me simplify it: Do you procrastinate? Do you defer processes or impede their flow? If you ask me, I'm certain you know the answer – it's a resounding YES! Personally, I've made progress in overcoming this tendency, and I hope you're making strides too. I sincerely pray that you are! The essence of being human, especially one blessed with free will, has led to numerous instances of delay. Have you ever considered how many times your decision to act or not, regardless of its quality, has resulted in delays? Have you pondered how your choices, whether good or bad, have caused delays?

Delay became part of the human experience when Adam, the first man, pointed us all toward the wrong tree bearing bitter fruits.

> ***Put an end to your worries and embrace the truth: in Adam, we inherited delays. This is why we need a savior.***

Whether the world likes it or not, regardless of the rapid pace of technological advancements, all of which are manifestations of God's mercy, humanity is

bound to encounter delays. Understanding that Satan is the cause of these delays, it is crucial to recognize that he capitalizes on your mistakes to ensure setbacks. That's why salvation isn't merely an escape from this world to a glorious heaven. Salvation through Jesus' completed works elevates you to the divine realm, aligning you with the goodness of God. In this elevated state, God not only works within you but also works for you and through you, eliminating unnecessary delays. This salvation places you in a class where your decisions and choices are guided by the gospel of grace, shielding you from erroneous choices that could lead to delays.

I don't care who the man is or what he has done, whether he possesses riches or not. He will inevitably face delays due to his own actions until he wholeheartedly embraces Jesus and the gospel of grace. Once he says yes to Jesus and is saved, the Holy Spirit dwells within him. If he remains consciously connected to the Father daily, there will be no unnecessary delays, not even caused by the devil! Why? The gospel, the words of Jesus that you constantly imbibe, will enable the Holy Spirit to guide you in making right decisions and avoiding evil. Moreover, it will harmonize all things for your good!

WHO OR WHAT ELSE CAUSES DELAY?

Now, you understand Satan's inclination towards delay. Having witnessed how salvation and the gospel serve as your sole antidote to avoiding personal delays, consider: who or what else could potentially cause a delay?

- **Nature and Events**

At the top of the list are nature and events. Disregarding the fact that we inhabit a world filled with structures and natural phenomena that profoundly influence both circumstances and human endeavors would be sheer ignorance. We have little control over everyday natural events. How can one prevent heavy rain from impeding movement and delaying tasks? How can anyone address an unforeseen event causing a disruption in plans? These events can be natural or orchestrated by individuals and institutions. To a large extent, there is almost nothing one can do except trust in the divine force that governs time, hoping for favor during times when nature and events cause delays.

- **People's Choice**

The next significant factor causing delays is people's choices. Do not be deceived; millions of people worldwide make decisions and choices daily that directly or indirectly impact your life, sometimes leading to delays. I earnestly urge parents to approach parenting with greater seriousness, purpose, and intentionality, as they are the primary influencers in a child's life, determining whether they will face prolonged delays. Moreover, as a child grows, their knowledge, which shapes their decisions, is pivotal to experiencing fewer delays in life.

- **Education and the Structures One Grow in**

Have you ever considered the impact of the education and community structures one grows up in? The environment, whether supportive or stifling, significantly influences an individual's journey. Men and women navigate

these structures revealing whether they contribute to progress or hindrance. Beyond personal choices, the leadership of nations, offices, local churches, and governments also plays a pivotal role. Their decisions can either pave the way for seamless growth or cause frustrating delays.

Consider a scenario where a person is placed in an environment where delays are inevitable due to the actions of others. Man's decisions, be they wise or unwise, can directly affect your life's trajectory. Choices made by individuals can either lead to delays or ensure progress at the right moment. What's troubling is that we often have no control over these decisions made by others. The solution lies in encouraging every individual to make choices that facilitate growth, without impeding others' progress.

> ***While prayer and fasting have their place, the ultimate remedy is a collective commitment to righteousness.***

Imagine a world where everyone is guided by a higher purpose, ensuring that delays are eradicated. It is this transformation, where individuals are imbued with the Holy Ghost, guiding their actions and timings, that holds the key to uninterrupted growth.

Chapter Four

DOES GOD USE DELAY?



In this chapter, I aim to address the most significant question that crosses every man's mind: Does God employ delay?

In the previous chapters, you have explored various personalities and factors that cause delays. Perhaps you caught a glimpse of the solution to these delays. However, if you have ever experienced a delay, regardless of its nature – be it a mere one-minute delay in something reaching you – can you truly believe that God can utilize that brief moment for your benefit? Consider a scenario where you were scheduled to board a flight at 4:40 p.m., but due to unforeseen circumstances, the flight was delayed until 5 p.m. Can you rely on God to turn those 20 minutes into something good for you and others?

Perhaps it was a canceled appointment that led to the delay, or perhaps an error caused the setback. It could be a delay self-induced, influenced by the government, friends, colleagues, family members, a spouse, your boss, a business partner, or even a teacher. Natural disasters might be the cause, or in some extraordinary cases, it might seem as if the devil himself has appeared

in physical form to create delays. In the face of these challenges, can we rely on God to overcome these delays for our goods and other endeavors?

Perhaps it's even God Himself who ensures that delay. Can we trust Him to utilize this delay? Let's be frank and real here, dear reader; nobody likes delays, not even a one-second delay. How can we trust God to use what we do not like?

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW DELAY?

To address the question of whether God uses delay, we must first explore why He allows it in the first place.

> ***Understanding why God permits delays will enable us to trust Him with the delays we have experienced, are currently enduring, or might face in the future.***

Does God allow my money or salary to be delayed, and does He use this time frame for my benefit? Is that what you're suggesting? Yes, absolutely yes! It's essential to remember that He is not the cause of the delays. However, when a delay occurs in the life of a son or daughter of God, we can acknowledge that God allows it to happen. And now that it has occurred, we can find solace in the knowledge that God is utilizing it for our good.

The truth is, God can compel anyone who owes you money to experience sleepless nights until they diligently work to repay you. However, God doesn't

always resort to such measures, despite the biblical wisdom found in Proverbs 21:1 NKJV, which states,

> *"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes."*

Often, we find ourselves praying fervently, imploring God to intervene, saying, 'God, urge this person to give me what is rightfully mine.' Sometimes, these prayers are answered, yet at other times, the answers to these prayers may not come when we need them due to the motivations behind them; either they are not rooted in love or they are fueled by desperation.

In any case, God's actions on behalf of a Christian involve allowing challenges posed by the devil and his agents. They may throw their best shots, but God, in His infinite wisdom, shields and provides for His own. When people owe you, and yet you survive amidst your pressing needs, that delay is God's way of working in your life.

> ***When there is a delay, and you emerge stronger and more prepared, that delay is God shaping your character.***

If after experiencing a delay, the situation doesn't align with your previous circumstances, that is God's way of orchestrating the delay for your ultimate benefit. These truths should never fade from your memory. Dear friends, if God permits it, it is for your good! Rejoice in the knowledge that God's timing is perfect, and His plan for you is always unfolding.

Everywhere in the Bible, delays are evident. If you look closely, you will notice instances where God could have simply performed a single miracle, eliminating the devil or anyone or anything responsible.

Indeed, in many places, God did so. However, in some situations, God appears to be exceptionally deliberate in bringing about what needed to happen.

Chapter Five

How God Allows And Uses Delay



I want to quickly show you how many characters, especially those associated with the gospel of Jesus, experienced delays in the Bible. I believe God was aware of these delays and allowed them because, in my belief, He could have intervened or released a word in time to prevent such delays from occurring.

ADAM'S FAMILY ERROR

For instance, evil entered the world through Adam's family error, and God knew about it. The solution lingered for hundreds of years. Why? God wanted the Devil to display his best. And when he did, at the appointed time, the solution manifested. It's an error to think that God simply folded His hands and allowed mankind to suffer due to Adam's error. That is not my God. If you study your Bible, you will realize that the solution was available even before Adam sinned.

The Bible states,

> *"All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"*
>
> ***(Revelation 13:8 NKJV)***

The solution to Adam's sin was to have the lamb slain and Jesus crucified. But why didn't God collapse time to have Jesus crucified in the garden? Well, let me explain.

> ***God, in His infinite goodness, orchestrated events to unfold at the perfect moment. What might have seemed like a delay was actually divine timing at work.***

The devil unleashed his fiercest attacks, yet he couldn't thwart God's plan. Despite apparent delays, God's purpose prevailed. Dear friends, if you understand what was set in motion long before your perceived delays, you will find reason to rejoice every day! The men of faith, who glimpsed the resurrection and the promises, even though they hadn't come to pass in their time, responded to life in a remarkable way.

As the Bible says;

> *"And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of*

lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to

*flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise.***"**

(Hebrews 11:32-39 NKJV)

These men had nothing but the testimony of what would be, and even though it seemed delayed, they lived extraordinarily. Dear brothers and sisters, don't let delays define your life; instead, let them propel you into an extraordinary existence! Embrace the delay and get ready for an extraordinary life!

Despite what appears to be postponed, you can work in righteousness, obtain the promises, stop the mouths of lions that trouble you, quench the violence of fire against you, escape the edge of the sword, emerge from weakness and be strengthened in all your endeavors, become valiant in life's battles, turn the armies of aliens against you to flight, and witness dead things raised back to life. The men in the Scripture lived gloriously despite any delay, demonstrating that God can orchestrate delay to work for mankind.

THE STORY OF ABRAHAM, MOSES, AND THE ISRAELITES

❖ ABRAHAM AND DELAY

You may be wondering about these sacred stories. Well, have you ever considered how God seems to allow certain events to unfold before the significant occurrences that were destined to happen? Take, for instance, the story of Isaac's birth, which was foretold even after Sarah had reached menopause. Why the complications in the narrative? Why involve Hagar? Why endure the prolonged wait and the accompanying stress? All of these questions boil down to one fundamental inquiry: why the delay?

Upon a closer examination of the account of Abraham, you'll notice that the promised son was not just about the arrival of a baby; it required Abraham and Sarah to have faith not only for their own family but for the nations. The focus on the promised son extended beyond their immediate joy – it had a profound significance in the grander scheme of things, particularly in relation to Jesus. The promised Isaac necessitated the development of a steadfast character rooted in faith and hope. Additionally, this delay allowed Abraham to cultivate his ability to create and manifest wealth, to intercede for nations, and to enjoy the privilege of fellowship with God, among other blessings.

> ***During this period of waiting, Abraham was unknowingly preparing for something much greater. Just as in his story, your current circumstances might be leading you to something of immense importance. Remember, your delay holds a promise of something extraordinary!***

Reflecting on the delay, one might question why God didn't expedite Isaac's birth right after the first intimate encounter between Abraham and Sarah. After all, He is God. But the divine plan involved a deliberate process. Looking back today, Abraham and Sarah are not only happier but also more fulfilled because of the delay. Abraham might say to Sarah, 'My dear, I am profoundly grateful for the delays we experienced,' and Sarah might respond, 'My king, I desire more delays with God, considering what I have witnessed Him accomplish in our lives!'.

If Abraham experienced such glorious outcomes despite delays and even sins, you can anticipate even more magnificent events during your own delays because you are now saved and righteous in Jesus! Believe me, you will soon be thankful for that delay, in Jesus' name!

❖ THE MAN OF GOD, MOSES, AND THE DELAY

Why did the man of God, Moses, and the Israelites experience such a prolonged delay? Why couldn't Moses have led the people out at the age of 40 and had to wait until he was 80? Why didn't the Israelites go straight to the land of Canaan and instead embark on a long journey? God permitted it, and I believe He could have simply spoken a word to ensure Moses's endeavours were successful and the Israelites' exit was stress-free. Yes, Moses and the people had their roles to play, but undoubtedly, the Almighty God could have intervened in a more direct manner. What do you think?

Interestingly, that delay made the story spectacular and full of miracles. Consider the astounding wonders: the manna in the wilderness, the sea splitting apart. In the midst of delays emerged a people surrounded by miracles and spectacles. With delays came a people overflowing with miracles! If you perceive it as a delay, then brace yourself for a journey filled with the miraculous and the spectacular! Are you still questioning whether God can use delays to manifest His wonders?

❖ DAVID AND THE DELAY?

The story of David, as recorded in the Bible, is one of the most transformative narratives you will ever encounter. It vividly illustrates how God is intricately involved in every aspect of our lives, even in what appears to us as delays. As I mentioned earlier, the real essence lies in understanding what God is accomplishing during these waiting periods.

> ***The delay itself isn't the issue; it's about having complete faith in what God is orchestrating amidst the wait. If we could grasp His divine purpose, many of us would find solace and even rejoice in our delays.***

Consider the life of David. He once found himself at life's very bottom, yet he was destined to be king, anointed for the role. However, this anointing was followed by years of anticipation and patience. Did David receive secret assurances from God during his waiting period? It remains unrecorded if the prophet Samuel revealed the exact timeline of his ascension to the throne.

What we do know is that it wasn't a mere mortal who chose him for Israel's kingship; it was God who picked him and anointed him for this purpose.

Have you ever felt chosen and anointed by God for something, only to face seemingly endless delays? Take heart; you're not alone. David wore those same shoes! That delay you're experiencing is not a setback; it's a setup. God, in His infinite wisdom, is working tirelessly behind the scenes, aligning circumstances for your ultimate success. Embrace the process, for that delay is a testament to the extraordinary plan He has in store for you!

What do you call the periods of waiting in your life? For David, these waiting times were akin to wartime for the nation of Israel, where he had to combat formidable Giants. Yet, in his waiting times, he found victories, emerging triumphant in numerous battles. His waiting times became a chronicle of oppression under the rule of King Saul, facing the specter of death on a daily basis. David's waiting time turned into a period of constant evasion, a time of assuming a facade of madness, dwelling in caves, and surrounded by people who were distressed, in debt, and discontented.

Perhaps you find yourself oppressed by people or circumstances, eagerly anticipating a change. It's possible that you're caught in a cycle of distress,

debt, and discontentment, much like David once was. Yet, regardless of the obstacles you face, know this: just as David did, you too can overcome your

challenges and emerge victorious from your struggles. What was David's state of mind during his own periods of delay and uncertainty? David was acutely aware of the covenant-keeping God, Yahweh. Throughout the book of 1st Samuel, we witness David's unwavering faith as he consistently refers to "The Lord". Embrace this consciousness, and like David, you too can find solace and strength in the divine, ensuring that you shall not just endure, but thrive amidst your delays.

The Bible says;

> *"Moreover David said, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!" Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.*
>
> ***(I Samuel 17:37- 45 NKJV)***

Oh, dear friend, amidst the delay, David had to endure and fight battles, accomplishing what many cannot fathom. During your waiting days, you ought to stand resolute for the divine purpose of God and His people. But what were David's credentials? Just one: the Lord! That should be your credential

as well! The Lord Jesus is the sole foundation you should proudly boast of, just as David did in his moments of delay and in all your endeavors! You must be thoroughly convinced and wholly aware, if you are saved, that

in this period of waiting, as you anticipate the miracle, the outcome, or the assistance you seek, acknowledge and proclaim the undeniable truth: the Lord Jesus is by your side. He will entrust you with the tools for triumph, guiding your path in all your pursuits and endeavors, in the name of the Lord Jesus!

❖ THE MAN JOSEPH

Imagine being in Joseph's shoes—thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, falsely accused of harassment, and then imprisoned. In those moments, hope and dreams would seem like distant fantasies. Joseph, the cherished son of Jacob, didn't just experience a delay in his dreams; it felt like they were entirely shattered!

Wherever you are and whatever situation you are in, my friend, you possess an even greater sense of hope! If Joseph could endure all those trials in a time when shadows veiled the truth, a time when the Lord Jesus had not yet died or resurrected, and yet nothing could impede his journey, then, dear brothers and sisters, we can be certain that no delay can hinder us either. We are embraced by an unwavering hope, a hope that remains steadfast despite any obstacle in our way.

What was Joseph's comfort as he endured a phase where his dreams were not just delayed, but seemingly cut off?

The Scripture tells us,

> *"The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. So it was, from the time he was made overseer of the house and all that his master owned, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had, both in the house and in the field"*
>
> ***(Genesis 39:2, 5, 23 NKJV)***

Do you perceive Joseph's comfort? The Lord was with him! It's during the days of delay that you must firmly believe the Lord is with you. In these moments, the Lord Himself is not just sending angels, but He is with you. And if you're saved, the Lord is not merely with you, but He resides within you, and He will never abandon you. In fact, while Joseph had the Lord with him, you have the Lord, the Holy Spirit, dwelling within you during your delays. Yes, in those periods of waiting, the Lord is within you, guiding your path.

Chapter Six
DELAY PRODUCES EXCELLENT CHARACTER AND TESTIMONIES



From the stories of the men we've shared, we witness how their delays led to remarkable outcomes. Abraham's delay yielded a testimony of faith unparalleled in history. The delay of the children of Israelites resulted in miracles unparalleled by any on Earth to this day.

David's delay nurtured a man of unwavering character, one always devoted to God. This delay played a pivotal role in God's choice to have David's lineage rule Israel indefinitely, with the Lord Jesus destined to reign from David's throne upon His return.

Joseph's delay honed his character, equipping him to solve national and international crises. His patience granted him favour and supernatural wisdom. When those who intended harm approached him, he embraced them, stating, "The Lord uses your errors and evil for my good and for yours!"

As Scripture states,

> *"Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.' Now, therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them".*
>
> ***(Genesis 50:19-21 NKJV)***

Now, I pose some crucial questions: Are you prepared to allow delay to shape you into the person you are meant to be? Will you permit delay to mould you into the individual God has planned for your life? Are you attuned to the transformation that delay is fostering within you? I sincerely hope your answer is a resounding "yes" dear friend!

Chapter Seven

OTHER STORIES OF DELAY



❖ APOSTLE PAUL

Why on earth would God allow the man Paul, the Apostle who wrote two-thirds of the New Testament, whose words are directed to the Church and who received the gospel of grace we now live by, to be a Pharisee first? Why would God permit him to persecute the Church initially, causing so much havoc? Why would God do that? I believe God didn't send Paul (then Saul) to live recklessly and commit those evils; Paul had his choices. But I do think God could have appeared to him from his birth, guiding him so he would grow up consecrated to the Lord. I believe God could've done that!

Why would God delay such a man from accessing his calling much earlier?

> ***I do know one thing: your delays are not delays when the Lord God shows up in your life! The best part is that God will use those skills, that knowledge, and the character you've developed during your delays.***

Just as God used Paul's argumentative mind, his stories of delay, even his evil deeds, and knowledge of the law, God Almighty will use everything you've become during your delay phase in life! He will bring you out, refine you, and

impart grace and wisdom to you so you can achieve great things despite your delays!

❖ ZACHARIAS AND HIS WIFE

Among the captivating tales of individuals facing challenges in the Bible, one particular family caught my attention: Zacharias and his wife.

The scripture recounts,

> *"There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, named Elizabeth. They both lived righteous lives, adhering to all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. However, they faced a poignant hardship; Elizabeth was barren, and both of them were well advanced in years".*
>
> ***(Luke 1:5-7 NKJV)***

Have you ever wondered about events that defy explanation? This family grappled with such questions daily! Despite their lineage connecting them to God, they questioned why certain things happened that seemed beyond reason. The Bible attests to their righteousness before God, not merely in the eyes of men. Despite God's recognition of their righteousness, they experienced a delay in childbirth.

How can a man be righteous and still experience delay? How can goodness coexist with evil in one's life? I confess, I do not possess all the answers. What I do know, unequivocally, is that misfortunes often befall virtuous

individuals! These individuals remained blameless in the eyes of the Lord, yet they encountered inexplicable delays.

My dear friend, embracing the gospel of Jesus has rendered you righteous and blameless before the Almighty God. However, since your faith took root, you too have encountered a multitude of delays in various forms. I can attest to this because I have faced similar challenges!

> ***Today, I bring you an uplifting message: when a person, righteous and blameless in the eyes of Jesus, encounters delay, be prepared for a miracle beyond comprehension and a testimony beyond belief! This was the narrative of the family of Zacharias.***

Who would have thought that their prolonged wait was divinely orchestrated so that their son could serve as the herald for the saviour of the entire world? Certainly not them! Never in their wildest dreams could this elderly couple have envisioned, prayed for, or believed in such a destiny! Gratitude be to God, who bestows upon us what we do not even pray for! Praise our God, who specializes in fulfilling what we lack faith in! Glorify our Heavenly Father, who delights in accomplishing what is beyond human imagination! Despite their extended delay, God intervened miraculously in the lives of Zacharias and his wife. He transformed their waiting period into a divine purpose!

My friend, this is our God—yours and mine! He is your Father and my Father if you are saved. Are you prepared for extraordinary testimonies and miracles that will surpass any delay you have faced in the past, any you are currently experiencing, or any that might arise in the future?

> ***Regardless of the cause or source of the delay, rest assured that God always has a purpose behind it. Especially if you are righteous in Jesus, God employs that delay for His glory, causing many to reign in life.***

Chapter Eight
YES! GOD USES DELAY



Are you still pondering the question, "Does God use delays?" I am eager to provide you with a swift response in this chapter and demonstrate it in two distinct ways! We can clearly understand how God utilizes delays.

> ***The undeniable truth is this: Yes, yes, and yes, forever—God uses delays! Let this realization fill you with joy as you reflect on all the delays you've experienced and wonder, "Could God truly use these delays?" The resounding answer is YES!***

Allow me to address more of your inquiries. God, will you use my delayed birth? Yes! God, will you use my delayed payment? Yes! God, will you use my delayed marriage, delayed job, delayed admission? The answers are yes and yes! Imagine a pastor inquiring, "God, will you employ my delay to nurture a greater number of souls in my pastoral duties?" The answer is a heartfelt yes, dear pastor!

You might be wondering, "I am a Nigerian, Pastor Raphael, and you expect me to believe that God will use this evil in our nation? Do you want me to

believe that God will work through the current events? Pastor Raphael, do you truly believe God will utilize the fact that my business was burned down? Will He use the fact that my store was looted by hoodlums? Will He use the fact that I am drowning in debt and have experienced immense loss?" The answer is a resounding YES.

Believe it, for God has a purpose even in the midst of challenging times.

Dear brothers and sisters, it is disheartening to witness the unfortunate state of our nation, Nigeria, and numerous other countries. We all yearn for a better Nigeria and flourishing nations. I am grateful that you are taking the time to read these words today. I want to share heavenly news with you. While I hope the government fulfills its promises and aids you in your time of need, I also hope that the leaders of our nation embrace empathy and justice in their decisions.

In the midst of these challenges, I want you to remember that your God can turn this setback into an opportunity for your good. Despite this evil setback, this delay, and the hardships you are facing, God can transform it all for your benefit. It requires daring to believe and fixing your gaze upon Him, even in this difficult season. He holds the power to guide the right people, control the timing and seasons, and raise individuals specifically for your sake. Now that

you understand that God utilizes delay, the question arises: how does He use it?

A man once inquired: my salary arrives late, my wife experiences delayed pregnancy, my relationships and job opportunities are held up, all due to my past mistakes. Delays caused by my errors and even those orchestrated by Satan working through people and circumstances. There are also instances where I can discern that these delays are part of God's divine plan. So, how does God utilize such delays? The answer lies in two fundamental ways:

1. He is the God who connects the dots!
2. He is the God who specializes in restoration.

❖ CONNECTING THE DOTS

What does this phrase even mean? How does God connect the dots? Allow me to explain, my friends.

No one appreciates delay, not even God Himself. We all wonder: why can't I have it now? Why must I wait? What is the connection between my patience and eventual fulfillment? These questions often plague our minds because delays tend to evoke negative feelings. However, as you grapple with these questions and navigate through the delays in your life, it's crucial to remember that God is connecting the dots! The first method through which God utilizes your past, present, and future delays is by CONNECTING THE DOTS.

In the Bible, as we explored in earlier chapters, we discovered that God frequently employs delay. Some instances are clear, while others remain a mystery. You might wonder, "Why did God postpone sending Jesus? Why did Abraham have to wait for years before Isaac's arrival? And why was

David, after being anointed, subjected to persecution before ascending to the throne?" All these we saw in earlier chapters and we can see how God connected their dots.

If He orchestrated such plans for people who lived before Jesus was born, died, and resurrected, you should find greater hope in your own circumstances. I urge you, dear friends, to revisit the earlier chapters. Doing so will not only help you endure your moments of delay but also enable you to rejoice as God connects the dots of your life. Perhaps, these connections might be character building, it might be exposure to knowledge, it might be relationship building, or capacity building. It might even be to protect you or to deepen your intimacy with Jesus.

> ***Whatever purpose God has in connecting these dots, trust Him unwaveringly and remain resilient. Embrace the delay, for it is merely a prelude to a more glorious chapter in your life.***

It is easy to accept delays when you can pinpoint reasons behind them, apportioning blames if necessary. But what if there's no clear cause for the setback? Can you still trust in the Lord Jesus? Consider the story of John's birth, as recounted in the Bible.

The scripture states, *'Elizabeth had no child, because she was barren.' This phrasing might sound peculiar—'no child because she was barren*.' It lacks

the expected logic; one might assume the Scripture would attribute her barrenness to some sin or wrongdoing. Yet, it doesn't. My friend, in moments of inexplicable delay, there's no need to tirelessly search for a reason. Simply continue living in accordance with your faith, doing what you believe the Lord wants you to do. Just as He intervened for Elizabeth, God will always manifest in your life.

Do not forget what we have shared. If God is involved or aware of a delay, which He allows for a Christian because He is aware of all that happens to them, just know that He is good even in the midst of the delay! God remains good even during delays; never forget that! Remember, you also read about the Apostle Paul in the previous chapter. Why did God allow Paul, the Apostle of grace, to persecute the church for so long before He appeared to him? He could have intervened at Paul's first attempt, what do you think? Yet, consider this delay by God; we affirm He is good anyway. Only He can connect the dots, just as He did for Apostle Paul, transforming him into the Apostle of grace who revealed to us all we need to know about God and grace! The earthly church is growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ because of Apostle Paul. Only God can connect such dots and mould someone into such a significant figure.

In life, delays caused by both man and nature are inevitable, and often, we find ourselves powerless in the face of these circumstances, a consequence of Adam's fall. However, even amid these delays, God still connects

> ***the dots of our lives, turning what seems like setbacks into blessings.***

Even delays that stem from our own actions, be it ignorance or unbelief, should not deter us. We must dare to believe that God connects the dots even in our ignorants and unbeliefs, He's our loving father!

Wake up every day with one assurance of the good news that God does connect the dots from where you are to where you should be and must be. No delay can stop you! Every form of delay should make you happy because now you know, God connects the dots by building you, correcting you, causing you to learn of Him, connecting you to people, and causing you to learn from people. My friend, no matter the delay, no matter who or what caused it, I want you to come to the place where you live knowing that God is connecting the dots!

> ***In fact, every delay should fill you with joy. Now, you understand that God connects the dots by shaping you, guiding you, allowing you to learn from Him, and introducing you to people who are integral to your journey.***

He is putting that one step to the other step. God is putting the line upon line, causing lines to fall in place for you! Your delay has an end; it's a glorious end!

When you know this, you will not give up on life! You will take steps daily towards all you can do now or all you're told to do now.

❖ GOD SPECIALIZES IN RESTORATION

Have you ever wondered about restoration and its profound connection to God's divine plan? Restoration isn't merely a way for God to alleviate delays; it's a meticulous process, a masterpiece crafted by the Creator Himself. When God connects the dots of our lives, the ultimate outcome is restoration! And God's restoration surpasses mere retrieval; it transcends the realms of what was once considered "missed," "lost," or even delayed. His restoration isn't just a return to the status quo; it's an enhancement, an elevation in both quality and quantity.

However, human efforts at restoration often fall short. Imagine buying a new shirt with anticipation of wearing it the next day, only to give it to a tailor who botches the stitching. The end result no longer resembles the original; its quality has been touched. They can't even restore all you lost both in quality and quantity.

> ***But God does! He specializes in restoring both quality and quantity, a billionfold, of all that has faced setbacks or delays in your life. It's time to trust Him! Have you suffered a loss? God restores, in both quality and quantity, a billion times over!***

There is only one exception to God's restoration: He will not provide a billion wives or husbands for you just because you lost your spouse and are now delayed in experiencing married life. Friends, that's a definite no-no! However, in the next person you choose to marry, God will bless you abundantly through them—restoring to you not only passion and affection in great quality but also in immense quantity.

This truth applies to all delayed relationships. Stop fretting over thoughts like "she's gone" or "he's gone despite all I have done!" Instead, turn to God and simply say, "Lord, restore!" In fact, for all the delays you've experienced or will encounter, learn to align your heart with God's plan for restoration by declaring, "LORD, RESTORE!

But why should you say "Lord, restore"? It's crystal clear that we have a God who specializes in restoration, but He also respects your choices! Do you desire restoration? If your answer is yes, then vocalize it! Just as when you sought salvation, you declared your faith in the Lord Jesus who died and resurrected for you, and voilà! You received salvation! The same principle applies to restoration—it's all about aligning your will with the Lord Jesus! God is willing to work wonders for you, but He expects you to be open and receptive to His blessings!

The Scripture says;

> *"But this is a people robbed and plundered; All of them are snared in holes, And they are hidden in prison houses; They are for prey, and no one delivers; For plunder, and no one says, "Restore!"*
>
> ***(Isaiah 42:22 NKJV)***

When you experience a delay, it feels as if time and opportunities are slipping away. It doesn't matter who is at fault; what truly matters is, what do you desire now? Do you want this delay to define your entire existence? Do you want it to dictate your pace, or would you rather retreat and live beneath your potential? Alternatively, do you wish to break free and declare, "Lord, RESTORE!"?

In the time of Isaiah, restoration was within reach for anyone, regardless of the cause, if only they had uttered the word "Restore!" Yet, according to the Bible, no one dared to speak it! For those who are saved, the Lord Jesus proclaimed restoration for all when He rose from the dead over two thousand years ago. Today, you can affirm His work by saying, "Lord, restore that help, restore that health, restore that opportunity, restore that scholarship, restore that home, restore that business, restore that job, restore that visa... Lord, restore". When you talk like this every day with praise on your lips, then you can look forward to a better quality and quantity of all that was delayed. My friend, God uses delay, by connecting the dots, causing restoration for every man who believes the Lord Jesus died and resurrected for him.

PRAYERS

I want you to say these prayers and claim a special gift I have for you! I don't know what kind of delays you've experienced or are still experiencing. I truly don't understand how those delays have affected you. Nevertheless, I am overjoyed that you have this book in your hands and that you've read through all the chapters. I firmly believe that the Lord Jesus has revealed a profound truth to you, something to grasp tightly. I am convinced that the Lord Jesus wants you to access the heavenly restoration that is essential for every person. The primary reason for these delays is because of the actions of Adam, and our restoration is in Jesus. I want you to revel in and access a trillion-fold restoration of what Adam lost, which has caused delays for all of humankind. When you utter these prayers, the door to His restoration swings wide open for you, allowing you to begin possessing all that you desire to have restored in your life.

Say this prayer with me;

What a privilege, Lord Jesus, to be alive and to have you reach me through this book. Thank you, God, because you never gave up on me, and you want all my delays to end in glory! Today, I believe the Lord Jesus has restored me to you, Father God. He has restored my spirit a trillion times more than what was lost in Adam. Today, I believe Jesus came for me, died for me, and as me, resurrected for me and as me. He is now seated in heaven in the place of

quality and quantity restoration, with the assurance that I am in. I believe; yes, I believe, and I confess Jesus is my Lord and Savior. He is my Lord of restoration, the One who connects the dots no matter the delays I've had and will have. I choose to trust Him with all my life now and forever. Amen and Amen.

Friends, have you said the above prayers? That's amazing! The Lord of restoration and His angels rejoice with you now. Welcome to your Father, and welcome to the Father in heaven. From today, it's clear: you are forever restored to God, and heaven is your home.

If you would like to share your testimony of what you have learned from this book, how this book has blessed you, and how it has answered your questions, kindly call or send a WhatsApp message to 08132259396, or write an email to ajiboyeraphael@gmail.com. Rest assured, we are praying for you.
Congratulations!

ABOUT THE BOOK

Have you ever experienced delays? Are you currently facing delays? Are you worried about what the future holds? It's time to let the Lord God connect the dots of every delay so you can reign in life!

In **Can God Use Delay?**, Raphael Ajiboye shares biblical insights, real-life examples and practical guidance to help you understand the purpose behind delays, discover hope in the waiting, and learn how to reign in life despite the delays you have faced, are currently experiencing, or might encounter in the future.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Raphael O. Ajiboye is a passionate minister of the gospel, a teacher and a conference host. He serves as the pastor of The Righteous Nation Church and founder of TEC World, where he trains, equips and empowers individuals to reign in every aspect of life.

A book of hope for every season of waiting.

www.theajiboyefamily.com