



God's Process

"God's Process Has No Shortcuts"

Habakkuk 2:3 KJV For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Introduction

This text emphasizes that God has an intentional process for every believer's life, designed to transform character and fulfill destiny. This divine journey involves various stages, often challenging, but ultimately leads to spiritual growth and the accomplishment of God's promises. The speaker was saved at 18 and surrendered life to Jesus. Initially called to music ministry, but God asked him to give it up temporarily. Became Senior Pastor at age 40, after feeling unprepared, relying on God. Prefers diverse congregations (80% African, 10% Asian, rest Caucasian), finding them "warm" in worship compared to "cold" white churches. Shares a humorous anecdote about delayed pick-up in Africa, highlighting a relaxed atmosphere.

Importance of Prayer & Faith

God provides strength to move forward when called.

Believe that God's promises, even if delayed, *will be fulfilled* at the appointed time. God is always moving, even when things seem delayed.

Understanding God's Process: Definition of Process: A series of coherent and ordered steps or actions leading to a specific result; a continuous sequence of events or changes over time.

Purpose: To prepare us to receive and carry what God desires to entrust to us.
"To whom much is given, much is required."
God provides the means to complete any vision given.

A. Key Steps in God's Process

B. The Dream: *Dreaming is easy*, but dreams from God initiate the process.

Joseph's example (Genesis 37:5): His dream made his brothers hate him more, showing that not everyone will understand or follow. Receiving a dream/vision/visitation is *not the end goal*, but the *beginning* of a process to qualify and align us with the promise. Submitting to another's vision can help develop one's own. God uses time, trials, and seasons of waiting to develop character and spiritual fruit.

C. The Pain of Being Misunderstood: Sharing a vision can lead to misunderstanding and mockery. **Joseph's example (Genesis 37:19):** His brothers mocked him ("Here comes the dreamer"), indicating a lack of understanding or acceptance. Arrogance can arise from receiving God's vision; trials help in realizing "it's not about you, it's all about God."

D. Trials as Tools for Training: Trials test character and purify the heart. **Psalm 105:** "Until the time came to fulfill his dream, the Lord tested Joseph's character." "Tested" implies purification, sorting, and refining (e.g., Joseph's arrogance was purified). **Joseph's Trials:** Sold into slavery, falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, unjustly imprisoned. God tests the fruits of the Spirit in our lives. **Submission to Authority:** Preaching on submission often leads to being tested on it. **Genesis 39:21:** "The Lord was with Joseph... and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor." **Genesis 50:20:** Joseph's powerful declaration to his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

- E. Dying to Self: **John 12:24**: "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." This process is essential for producing spiritual fruit. God may ask you to give up things you love (e.g., Abraham sacrificing Isaac, speaker giving up a musical band). A "dead" person, having gone through God's process, reacts with the fruit of the Spirit (e.g., love).
- F. Necessary Separations: Some people in your life may not be able to go where God is taking you. If they don't leave, you won't reach your God-given destination. Separations can be temporary or permanent and can be painful. **Abraham and Lot**: God allowed their separation for Abraham to fully enter His promises. Joseph was forgotten by the cupbearer for two years, but God's timing eventually brought him to Pharaoh.
- G. No Shortcuts in the Process: God's process cannot be bypassed. Avoid seeking shortcuts or using ungodly means for power or prophetic words. **Serve the local church**; submit to authority. Start serving in humble roles (e.g., sweeping floors, setting up chairs) to build character and prove faithfulness. **Testing Character**: A genuine pastor or leader will serve without complaint, even when tasks seem beneath them.
- H. The Process is Never as Expected: The initial plan may be clear, but God uses circumstances in *unexpected ways*. "When you complain, you remain." Trust God in the process, even when it looks different from expectations. **COVID-19 Example**: Unexpected shift to online services and personal home broadcasting. Life is full of surprises; God's timing and methods often differ from our own. God is not in a rush; He has an "entire new eternity." Practical Applications & Upcoming Events **Call for Prayer**: For those feeling misunderstood, lacking vision, or needing fresh revelation. **Strengthening Worship**: Unity among musicians and singers strengthens God's throne, leading to a strong presence of God. **Sharpening Natural Skills**: God uses our skills, but the instrument through which He operates (us) must also be refined.