

TRUSTING GOD'S WORK AND HIS TIMING

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I surrendered my life to the Lord in 2011 and my life took a 180-degree turn toward Jesus. Back then, because of the excitement and the passion I felt experiencing Jesus, one of the things that I did immediately was to share the gospel to one of my closest friends in college. I shared the amazing grace of our Lord, His overflowing mercies, and His overwhelming love, but despite sharing all these with much passion and joy, my friend just laughed and told me that I was being corny. Well, I couldn't blame him. How could a guy whom you've been doing all sorts of foolish things and mischief with suddenly become religious and begin sharing about Jesus and about living for Him, right? I got discouraged and hurt, not because of his response, but because it was he who responded that way. I really thought that he would feel my sincerity. Still, though I was discouraged, it didn't stop me from sharing the gospel to him again. And, each time I did, he continued to reject the gospel.

Since then, I persevered in prayer for him with the hope that in God's time, he would see and sense the love and the majesty of Christ. A few weeks

ago, I met him again, hoping to have another opportunity to share the gospel to him once again. As we shared our different stories during the height of the pandemic, I couldn't help but notice that he was already involving God in his life. "I've been praying to God..." "I'm still waiting for God..." "I'm seeking God's direction..." are the words that I started hearing from him, which were not present in our prior conversations. He told me the personal encounter he had with God this year which led him to submit to the Lordship of Christ. Praise God! After a decade of praying for him, the Lord encouraged me by answering my prayers. Praise God, indeed!

And now, together with joy and encouragement, I want to share with you two things I've gleaned from this journey that I have with this dear friend so that you, too, will experience the same joy and encouragement in the Lord. First, trust God's whens and keep on persevering. As I mentioned, I got discouraged many times and there were moments when I felt like giving up on sharing the gospel to him because he seemed to be indifferent about it. But even

if it seemed that way, with the help of the Holy Spirit, I persevered and experienced victory. And, I wouldn't have done so if I hadn't trusted God's whens.

The other thing I learned is to trust God's work and keep on praying. Prayer played a big role in my experience. Every time we met, we would end our time praying for each other's prayer requests. Likewise, I would pray for an opportunity to share the gospel, and from time to time I would pray that his heart would soften and he would surrender to the Lord. And, even though there was seemingly no progress through the years, the Lord always led me to trust His unseen work (at least in my eyes) every time. In summary, trust God's work and keep on praying!

As we press on in showing and sharing the love and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer is that we would grow in trusting God's whens and keep on persevering, and in trusting God's works and keep on praying. Surely, your experience with the Lord will bring you joy and encouragement. Trust God! ✠