

Patient Trust

We all have seasons of our lives when we experience frustration that timelines and events do not unfold as we think they should or could. It is a deeply spiritual journey to manage such frustrations and have patience that events will unfold in time. In those moments in my own life I attempt to discern whether I need to take some action or is this in fact a situation where I need to wait for God's time. Called *kairos*, God's time often contains wisdom that our addiction to *chronos*, or the linear time we measure in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks and years, cannot give us.

In our immediate gratification world, cultivating the art of trusting in God's time is as big a spiritual challenge as ever. We want what we want and we want it now. This is fine when what we want is something you can purchase on Amazon, but far different when what we want requires the cultivation of new ideas, new knowledge, and a greater amount of "middle space" between the beginning of an idea and its fulfillment.

We will hear a great example of this on Sunday as we meet the Israelite's in the desert complaining to Moses that they would rather be back in Egypt. The middle space between leaving Egypt and arriving in the Promised land is not something they want to experience. But, it is only in that middle space, their wandering through the desert, that they will learn how to be a free people.

Our lives include times when we can get what we want right away and many, many other situations which require innovation, new knowledge, discernment and patience on our part. The challenge for us is to know the difference!

I want to share this wonderful reflection from Priest and philosopher, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. It has long been a favorite and its truth always comes as a gift when I need it most:

Patient Trust in the Slow Work of God

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability – and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you. Your ideas mature gradually – let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow.

Only God can say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

Grace and Peace, Stephanie+