

# 16. WHILE YOU WAIT BE CONFIDENT



*Be careful who you trust the devil  
was once an angel.*

#NCSAMENTALHEALTHDEVOTIONS

## WHILE YOU WAIT BE CONFIDENT

*Hebrews 6:18: "So God has given both His promise and His oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore we who have fled to Him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us."*

With so much change that is taking place around us, with so many things happening that is out of control, what we need most in our lives right now is something that is consistent. We need something or someone to place our confidence in, someone to trust.

I remember growing up, playing the trust game with some of our church's young people. Attending church in Middelburg, South Africa, meant that we were only a few young people, probably just a handful. There were only two guys in the midst of all the girls. One of the two was my brother, what a bummer. I recall one afternoon after church we were at one of the church elders' home and while waiting for lunch, we were playing outside. Ian, the only other guy that was there, decided to play the trust game. This game entails that two people stand, the one person in front of the other, and the one in front falls backwards, hoping and believing that the person behind them will catch them. Ian was challenging the girls to see if they trusted him. In my young, tomboyish mind, I immediately thought that he was just trying to show off to impress the girls. I was kind of irritated with his bravado, so after a while I challenged him and asked him if he trusted me enough to catch him.

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He was very brave and without hesitation he said, "Yes Nandi, of course I trust you." He took his position, ready to fall. Now, I want you to know that it was my honest intend to catch him, but as he bravely started falling backwards, a little evil voice told me to drop him. I stood back and watched him fall flat down on the ground.

I betrayed the confidence he had in me. There are many different words for the confidence he had in me, like to have faith, to have trust, to rely on somebody, to know that they are going to come through, but I betrayed him.

From a young age we are taught to have confidence. We are taught to trust. To trust God. To trust people. To trust our own instincts and that gut feeling we sometimes get, even to trust things. Now, we are not explicitly taught to trust things, but by beholding our parents rely on things, institutes, objects, we learn to do the same. When we get older our experiences in life, like the one my poor friend Ian had, teach us **not** to trust, not to put our confidence in people and things.

I am sure you can think of a time when someone said they would do something and they did not. I am sure you can think of a time when somebody said they would be there for you, but they were not. I am sure people have disappointed you on various occasions. The experiences of life teach us not to put our trust and our confidence in people.

The Bible concurs. Psalms 118:8 says: *"It is better to trust the Lord than to put your confidence in man."*

**EVER PUT YOUR FAITH IN  
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Micah 7:5 takes it a step further: *“Trust not in a friend, put no confidence in the one that sleeps next to you”*, meaning your spouse. Psalms 118:9 says: *“It is better to trust the Lord, than to put confidence in princes.”* Some translations refer to ‘certain leaders of the state’. Psalms 27:10 says: *“Even if my father and my mother abandoned me, the Lord will take me in.”* Meaning that even mother and father can sometimes come to a point and place in their lives where they abandon us and where we lose our confidence in them and cannot trust them.

There is a saying, *‘be careful who you trust, the devil once was an angel.’* Maybe, if we cannot trust people, if we cannot trust friends, if we cannot trust our spouses, princes, fathers and mothers, at least we can trust ourselves. Because we won't harm ourselves, we can trust ourselves. Unfortunately we don't even come through for ourselves. We at times, become disappointed in ourselves. We let ourselves down. We don't even keep our promises to ourselves. We promise ourselves that by the end of December we will achieve our goals. Or we make New Year's resolutions for ourselves and we don't even keep that. The Bible warns us that to put trust in self, is very infallible. Proverbs 3:5 says: *“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”* In other words, don't even trust your own thoughts. Don't even trust your own heart. Proverbs 28:26 says: *“Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom they are kept safe.”*

We tend to put our trust in the things we have acquired. Money or houses or farms or cars or cell phones. Unfortunately these things can only get us so far in life. They break, they get old and they let us down as well. It is foolish for us to trust in things, and the Bible concurs. Psalms 20:7 says: *“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.”*

**THERE IS A SAYING, ‘BE CAREFUL  
WHO YOU TRUST, THE DEVIL ONCE  
WAS AN ANGEL.’**

Isaiah 31:1-3 says: *“What sorrow awaits those who look to Egypt for help, trusting their horses, their chariots and charioteers and depending upon the strength of human armies instead of looking to the Lord, the Holy One of Israel.”*

God knows that our confidence is wasted when we trust in people, when we trust ourselves and when we trust in things. He knows we are going to end up feeling very disappointed.

We literally become stuck in life when we find out that people cannot be trusted, when we cannot even trust ourselves and even the world around us, is no longer safe. Even nature and the environment have become very unstable and inconsistent and we can't put our confidence in it anymore. Things that were there yesterday, are no longer there today. Today the sun shines, tomorrow there is a tornado. There are so many inconsistencies in our lives and in this world. There are so many experiences of broken confidence, no wonder we struggle to place our confidence in God. Our betrayed hearts struggle to put our trust in God because we've been betrayed so many times. Because the brain wants to protect us against future harm, our minds have been re-wired to mistrust, to be careful and suspicious and not to believe anyone.

There is a saying, *‘trust is like paper; once it is crumpled up, it can never be perfect again.’* God understands this.

Psalms 118:8 says: *“It is better to take refuge in God than to trust in humans”* (NIV). God will never let us down. God is a constant amidst all the inconsistencies. He is like the North Star that never changes, that stays put and guides us, no matter what the weather is like.

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Do you have God as this constant in your life? God is never changing, no wonder the Bible also calls Him the Morning Star. He is the first to appear at dusk and the last to disappear at dawn. Deuteronomy 31:6 says: *“Be determined and confident. Do not be afraid of them. Your God the Lord Himself, will be with you. He will never fail you, nor abandon you.”* In Psalms 116:7 we read: *“Be confident, my heart, because the Lord has been good to me.”*

The Bible is saying that despite all the inconsistencies and lack of confidence in the things and the people of this world, there is one thing that is constant and that is God. We can be confident and step out in faith, trusting Him with our everyday lives and needs. God has proven Himself that He has our best interest at heart. He became a human for us. He left His Divinity for us. He was tempted for us, rejected and persecuted for us. He died for us. He rose again for us and right now, the Bible tells us, He is making intercession for us in the Most Holy Place.

God is consistent. He lets the sun rise and set at set times. The moon going around in its orbit, is so consistent that even the scientists who do not believe in God, can launch a rocket to the place where the moon is going to be. God is consistent and this consistency produces security, where inconsistency produces insecurity and a lack of confidence. We can trust God and His consistency. This will produce comfort and peace and contentment within us. One of the most striking promises of God that is found in the Bible, a promise we can have confidence in and we don't have to doubt, is His promise and His oath that He will come again.

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His promise that He will not leave us to our fate here on this earth. Hebrew 6:17-20 says: *"To those who were to receive what He promised, God wanted to make it very clear that He would never change His purpose; so He added His vow to the promise. There are these two things then that cannot change and about which God cannot lie. So we who have found safety with Him are greatly encouraged to hold firmly to the hope that is placed before us. We have this hope as an anchor for our lives. It is safe and sure, and goes through the curtain of the heavenly temple into the inner sanctuary. On our behalf Jesus has gone in there before us and has become a High Priest for ever, in the priesthood of Melchizedek."*

This sounds very strange and very confusing to us, but what God is saying is that He has promised, He has vowed that He will go and make intercession in the heavenly sanctuary for us. That He will separate the veil between us and God and that He will re-unite us with God. Once this work is done, He will come back and He will take us to be with Him. It is very interesting that this is the only place in the Bible where God not only **promises**, but He vows that He is doing His work on our behalf; where He **vows** that He wants to be with us and that He has given up everything to be with us.

The Bible says He will come again and that He is busy making intercession for us right now and soon this work will end. Will He come and find us waiting for Him confidently and consistently, not giving up?

What does it mean to be inconsistent? When it is used in terms of the body and health, inconsistency is the word used for disease or deformity.

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A cold manifests itself as an inconsistency. Cancer is nothing but an inconsistency in the cells of the body. Inconsistency is bad for the human body. We don't want to be blind and sightless every now and again. Nor do we desire to only have a strong heartbeat from time to time. But we are inconsistent. There are phrases that we as humans use, like: "I will be ready for Jesus someday." "I read my Bible some days." "I go to church when I feel like it." Very inconsistently when it comes to the things of God.

The question is when God, who is so consistent in His promises and in His vows, comes to take us home and He finds us so inconsistent in our ways, will we be ready to meet Him? If our bodies and God were as inconsistent as we are, we would be very scared to get up in the morning. Is God going to let our heart beat? Is He going to allow us to breathe? Is the sun going to rise or set? The Bible says that there will be those who have been diseased with the sin of inconsistency. We need to learn to be more consistent. We need to learn to not only be confident in God's promises, but to allow God to be confident that when He comes, He will find us waiting and busy doing what He has left us as a task to do.

Confidence leads to patience and we need to be patient as we wait for God. A lot of times it is our impatience that leads us to inconsistency. If we have true faith in God, we will wait confidently for Him, doing what needs to be done. Even though there is an apparent delay in God's coming, God will come and I believe that it is soon. With this COVID-19 and what is happening around the world, my husband and I have been saying, "Wouldn't it be amazing if God comes within the next few weeks or months, or even tomorrow!" With all the signs happening around us, we become more confident that the world will end soon, that Jesus will come soon.

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Yes, He will come sooner than what we think. We as Christians are confidently waiting for this promise, this oath by Jesus that He will come, to be fulfilled.

Some of us, while waiting, lose the confidence we had. Let me illustrate. At home we have three dogs. Two Staffordshires and one Husky. When they were young, we taught them by using words and hand signals, to sit and to wait for their food. At times we would test them to see if they would be patient and if they would obey and wait for their food. We would give the command to sit and then we would linger long before giving the command and the signal to eat. Over time the Staffordshires became impatient, so also the Husky. But it was a different kind of impatience. Because the Staffordshires were older, they knew our tricks and they knew we tend to delay giving them the food. They would become impatient because we made them wait. They would get up and leave. So their impatience was the kind of impatience that said: "I cannot wait any longer, I am leaving now."

On the other hand, the Husky would also become impatient because she is a very hungry dog. She is almost like a wolf. With her type of impatience, she would start fiddling and howling and complaining because it took so long. She would become impatient in the sense of: "I can't wait. I want this food. Give it to me now!"

Because of the apparent delay in Christ's coming, some of us might experience what my Staffordshires experienced. We might react: "Is He really going to come and if so, it might not be that soon." We might become impatient and say: "I cannot wait any longer!", and go about our old ways of life.

**YOU MAY ASK: "IS JESUS REALLY GOING TO COME?" YOU MIGHT SAY: "I CANNOT WAIT ANY LONGER!", AND GO ABOUT OUR OLD WAYS OF LIFE.**

Or we could be like our Husky saying: “Lord, I am so excited, and I am going to do what You said I should do while I wait.” For our dogs it was to sit and wait. For us it is to go about God's work in perfecting our characters and do what a Christian should be doing.

We should be careful of anticipating a delay. If we anticipate a delay, if we think God is going to delay long, it affects our actions and our lives because we start to think that we still have time. It is like the Staffordshires laughing at the Husky, saying: “Why are you still waiting? The time is **not now**. There is still time, go and enjoy yourself and when the Master says ‘I am here’, then you can come.”

The Lord will cut off those who are not waiting patiently for Him. It is like the parable in the Bible of the ten virgins. There also was a delay and those who were not waiting in expectation of the groom, did not enter in. Where does your loyalty lie? True dedication means to wait, no matter how long the delay. If you are here only because of the emotional high or because of fear, you will fall by the wayside.

If you are only waiting because you think the time is now, be careful, there might be a delay. God might not come right now. COVID-19 might just be a sign that the end is near, but He might delay, just like He delayed in the time of Noah.

When God asked Noah to build the ark, it took 120 years before the rain came. There was no rain before, so no one believed the story that the earth would be covered with water. When Noah entered the ark, there was still a time of delay. Some of us could have had a spiritual revival during COVID-19 and we feel the end approaching, saying that it can't be long, let me light my lamp. We see the signs, like Noah saw all the animals entering the ark. He believed God's promises.

**IF YOU ANTICIPATE A DELAY IN GOD'S COMING, IT WILL AFFECTS YOUR ACTIONS & YOUR LIFE BECAUSE YOU START TO THINK YOU STILL HAVE TIME.**

Even after they entered the ark and even after they saw the animals going in and an unseen hand closing the doors, there was a seven day silence before the rain came. Those who were on the outside scoffed and said, "You see, God is not coming, the rain is not coming, it is not happening now. Why are stuck there in the ark for nothing?"

This apparent delay will make many of us fall back into our old ways, thinking that we still have time. The reason for God's delay is because He is unwilling to have His people perish. He has a reason for waiting long – He wants all of us to come to repentance.

We can trust God when He says it will be soon. But can we trust ourselves that we will be waiting confidently and patiently, doing what God has called us to do? God is faithful. He is consistent and dependable. We can place our confidence in Him.

Will you be faithful (consistent) and dependable, someone God can trust to take care of things while waiting for the Lord and Master to return? Will you be found saying: "I am so excited!" and be doing that which you need to do to be ready? Or will you be found saying: "I cannot wait any longer, the excitement has died down. The Master is not coming. His return will not be soon, let me go and do that which I want to do"?

There are no irregularities or inconsistencies in Jesus and there shouldn't be any in us. Hebrews 13:8 says: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever."

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Malachi 3:6 says: *"I am the Lord, I do not change. That is why you, the descendants of Jacob, are not already destroyed."* God waited for Israel to repent. God is waiting for us to repent. He gives us signs of His soon coming, and we must hold on to these signs, being excited.

The Bible says when we see these things happening, we should look up and be happy, for our salvation is at hand. Do you feel excited, like my Husky, saying: "Lord, I can't wait to meet You? I see the signs all around me. I am looking towards my salvation. And yes Lord, You may delay, but I will be found waiting, being consistent and being a good servant."

May we all have the confidence that God has made a vow and a promise and that He will not change. Soon He will come and soon we will meet Him on the clouds of heaven heading towards our eternal home!

**MAY YOU IN ANTICIPATION OF  
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