

This past week, I ran across this quote from the book *Master's Indwelling* by Andrew Murray (1828-1917):

The question comes again: Why is it that God's people do not know their God? And the answer is: They take anything rather than God,—ministers, and preaching, and books, and prayers, and work, and efforts, any exertion of human nature, instead of waiting, and waiting long if need be, until God reveals Himself. No teaching that we may get, and no effort that we may put forth, can put us in possession of this blessed light of God ...

Waiting on God was probably never easy, but I think that it must be harder than ever in 21<sup>st</sup> century America. We have drive-thrus for practically everything these days – food, of course, but also banks, dry cleaners, pharmacies, even Starbucks™. We drink instant coffee and eat microwavable dinners. We're irritated if people don't respond to our emails within a few minutes. And, with the advent of digital cameras, even Polaroids seem to take forever. Wait on God? Well, I guess I can fit Him in for a couple of minutes on Tuesday...

Recently I was asked the question, "If we're trying our best to serve God and do what He wants, why would He allow [another church] to prosper so quickly, while it seems like our dreams and plans are taking so long?" (That's a paraphrase, but I think it is accurate.) Well, truthfully, I don't know the answer to that question. I also don't know why God would allow Stephen, "a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit" to be martyred right at the very beginning of his ministry, while He chose Paul, who consented to Stephen's death and persecuted the church, to eventually become the greatest Christian missionary the world has ever known. Yet, that is exactly what Scripture says happened. (See Acts 6:5, 8:1, & 9:15-16)

God's plan is different for every church, just as it is different for every person. His ways are not our ways (Isa. 55:8-9) and to us they are often unfathomable (Rom. 11:33). Nevertheless, I am confident that God has a better view of things than I do. His vision reaches to the ends of the earth, it encompasses every man, woman and child who now lives or ever has, it considers all of history past, present, and future. Realizing this, I guess I don't really need to know why, or how, or even when ... I just need to trust in Who.

*Pastor Sean*

P.S. You can read or download (instantly!) the entire text of Andrew Murray's book at <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/murray/indwelling.html>. This quote is from Chapter III, *Waiting on God*.

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