Sorry I’m Late

2 Peter 3:3-9

Do you ever feel like you’re always late? Or are you one of those punctual, always on time people? Do people worry when you’re five minutes late or joke when you’re five minutes early. Sometimes it seems like my motto in life is “better late than never.” It seems I’m quite often late or perhaps in our politically correct world, I could call it “time management disabled.” In fact, my girls tell stories of my tardiness, sometimes I was so late they thought I forgot them. (Although I only truly forgot one time!)

Thinking about tardiness caused me to think of this scripture from 2 Peter. Peter knew that a time would come when people would think that God was slow, forgot about them or wasn’t coming at all. In fact, 2000 years ago folks were already beginning to think God was running behind schedule. But Peter wrote these words to reassure us that God is not late, slow, tardy or forgetful. No, instead God is hopeful.

When I’m late, I hope no one ever gives up on me. I’ve generally tried to squeeze too much into too short a period of time, slept in or wasn’t watching the clock close enough. But what about God? Do we give up on Him? Do we think He’s decided not to return like He promised? And even more relevant, when we pray, and the answer doesn’t come immediately, do we run ahead or try to fix it ourselves?

I hate to admit it, but I’m terribly guilty of having fallen into the “gotta fix-it” syndrome. I want immediate answers and instantaneous results. So there are moments when I have a difficult time waiting for God. On so many occasions it seems as though God is moving much slower than I think He should.

Fortunately though, God’s timing is perfect. When we think God is slow, He’s merely waiting on the perfect time to respond. On those days when it seems like our Heavenly Father has forgotten us, He’s often being patient with us as we learn the lesson He’s been trying to teach. Perhaps you’ve been praying for your children or your spouse, your church or your friends and you’re wondering if God has heard. 1 John 5:14 assures us that if we ask according to His will, God hears us and will answer that prayer.

As you wait on the Creator of the Universe in the next week or so, be reminded that God is not slow. He’s not sleeping or running late. God is waiting, hopefully waiting for the perfect time because He knows what’s best and has the best in mind for us.