

## When the answer to prayer is “wait”.

We all enjoy immediate answers to our prayers. It is exciting. We once ran out of carrots just before Christmas. Fervent prayers rang out to the heavenly Father for carrots. The doorbell rang and there standing on our doorstep was a neighbour with a large bag of carrots! We were delighted at such a quick answer to prayer.

Immediate answers to prayer do happen and our faith grows by leaps and bounds. But we all know that it doesn't always happen that way. Sometimes the answer is “wait”. We are not good at waiting especially the more impatient amongst us.

In the early years of our community we were four sisters. We prayed for many years for more sisters. Sometimes it seemed as if the answer to our prayer was never going to come. At one point it even looked as if we might be headed in the opposite direction when one of the four was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. We could be going down to three. The Lord gave us promises – quite clear promises from Scripture. We could not deny that he was saying we would become established, we would grow. But it still didn't happen! For years the heavenly Father said “wait”.

Although we were unaware of it he was teaching us important lessons in those years when he said, “wait”. A work of God needs secure foundations and that doesn't happen overnight. Trust in God has to be deeper than the thrill of immediately answered prayer or it will not stand in the storms of life. It was a lesson in patience and humility.

Perhaps the answer to some of your prayers is “wait”. Be encouraged the answer will come but don't miss the lessons that the heavenly Father is teaching you on this way.



*Wait expectantly  
for the answer to your  
prayer but don't miss the  
lessons of the waiting time.*