**Divine Delays by Single Parent Leader, Holly Crain**
*"Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10*

The divorce and the absence of children every other weekend was nearly too much to bear. Something had to change. I couldn't comprehend how to make my way through all the pain and confusion. I found myself on the floor crying to the Lord that morning, "Please take it all…the confusion, the mistakes, the pain." So much tension was happening in my heart that I finally laid it all out to the Lord. Was I able to endure this? Could I trust God with my whole heart?

God used divine delays throughout the Bible. Moses wandered in the desert for 40 years, Joseph sat in a dungeon and was seemingly forgotten, and Sarah thought her days had passed. Was I being asked to endure a divine delay? Was the Lord setting apart a time to accomplish His purposes in my life?

Looking back from this vantage point, I can clearly see how God used a time like this in my life. I had no idea if it would be 3 hours, three days, three weeks, three years. But I knew enough that God's design and purpose for my life were worth every single minute. No matter how long it took.

His hand was heavily upon me, and I had no choice but to listen or run. Thankfully, this time, I listened. Did I want it? Absolutely not. But I needed to align some things and allow the Lord full access. He had to be my top priority, and nothing would take His place in my life again.

Making sense of divine delays can frustrate and make us question the very core of who we are. We will sometimes see the reason for this delay, but most times we will not. Today, you may find yourself in a place just like this. I would encourage you to fully receive everything the Lord is trying to do in your life. Carve out space in your life and listen intently. Immerse yourself in the Word and memorize scripture. Look for others around you who are ahead of you spiritually, and listen to their own accounts. The Lord wanted full access to my life and my heart. It became a time of recommitment, repentance, and fully submitting to His authority. I had to align my life according to Him and not anything else the world offered.

Who would ever choose this? I would suspect no one would. This is never fun, but if it brings us to know the Lord in a new way or moves a step forward in spiritual maturity...well, then it's worth it. I found that I was never alone as I walked through this time. The Lord walked with me. And 30 years later, I have continually pointed back to that time in my life because of the magnitude it had on my life and the spiritual maturity that followed.

If we haven't met, I want you to know that when I walked into my local church alone with a five-year-old daughter and a two-month-old son almost 30 years ago. I didn't know if that church was ready for me. But do you know what happened? That church embraced me and walked me through my biggest life trial. But even more significant than that, the Gospel and what God did in my life changed this girl forever! And I know He will do the same for you as He did for me! He will! Enjoy your local church and these single-parent family articles. **Allow yourself to get excited about what God has in store for you and your children. It's so good!**

If you would like information about how to start a single-parent ministry in your church, email t HollyCrain1031@gmail.com to set up a meeting. I have 16 years of experience running a single-parent ministry and would love to help others do the same!