



## CELL GUIDE

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**TOPIC** Malachi: Faith in a Season of Waiting (Part 2) **SPEAKER** Ps Jeffrey Aw

**THEME** Faith Challenges

**DATE** 26 & 27 Oct 2019

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## Introduction

The second of a 2-part series on Malachi. Last week, Ps Darren Kuek shared on *knowing God's love, giving honour and remaining faithful* while waiting. This week, Ps Jeffrey Aw shares with us on how to address the doubts we might have and how to remain faithful in a time of waiting. He gives us insight into 3 reasons why we can trust God and remain faithful in a time of waiting.

## How to remain faithful in a time of waiting

### 1. Trust God our Judge for He Recompenses

One of the reasons why the Israelites were challenged in their waiting was because they did not see God's justice being enacted around them. They witnessed those who do evil and yet still look good, and so questioned God's justice (2:17). God, in turn, challenged the Israelites to look at what is happening from God's perspectives. That God has promised justice and He will never fail, and that God is patient and long-suffering and will deal out His justice in His time. He reminds them that the Lord *will* come (3:1), that He will purify the faithful so that their offering will be acceptable to God (3:3-4), and that He will be quick to testify against those who do evil and do not fear the Lord (3:5). And so, our task is to wait, and to trust God while we wait. For God has said that he will be sure to compensate good and evil men according to what they have done.

### 2. Trust God our Lord for He Rewards accordingly

Another way in which the Israelites were challenged in their waiting is that they no longer stuck closely to what God had asked them to do. As they did not trust God to judge, they saw little point in being obedient and submissive to His word. And this played out clearly in their tithes (3:8-12), which reflected their attitudes in how they gave back to God, how they took care of the priests of God, the poor, the aliens and the marginalised.

Tithing can be a sensitive topic to approach in many churches, but Ps Jeffrey reminded us that one reason why it was sensitive might be because we were too focused on the money, and not focused enough on how tithing is actually an issue of Lordship. Even while we wait, we are called to trust that God will reward us for our obedience and submission to His word and His Lordship in our lives.

### 3. Trust God our Sun of Righteousness for He remembers the righteous

The final way in which the Israelites were challenged was when they felt that it was futile to serve God, for they see evildoers prosper and get away with even putting God to the test (3:14). And yet God has promised that He will remember those who fear Him and honour His name (3:16). He

promises that they will be His treasured possession (3:17), and the sun of righteousness will rise for them with healing in its wings (4:2). Even while we wait, we are called to trust that God remembers us and will reward us when Christ returns in glory.

## Conclusion

How do we respond in our seasons of waiting? The difficulty in waiting is that we sometimes do not see God working while we are waiting. Our faith wavers and we have doubts on whether the Lord will repay those who do evil, on whether He will reward those who obey, and whether He will remember those who fear and honour Him.

What do we do when we have such doubts? We remember His promises, in the Word and in our lives, and we trust and obey.

# QUESTIONS

1. What were the 3 reasons for which we could trust God in times of injustice, in times of poverty, and in times of tiredness?

2. Are you currently experiencing any of these situations? An unjust situation? Being in a position where you feel that you do not have enough to give to God? Or just feeling tired that the service that you give to God does not seem to be bearing any fruit? Share your struggles.

3. What can you do to trust God in the midst of your struggle? How can you encourage one another to trust God?