



THE CROSS *and* CROWN

"No Cross, No Crown"

a publication of Highway Mission Tabernacle and Resurrection Life Church, Philadelphia, PA

Edition LXXIV | July 21, 2024 copyright ©2024, Highway Mission Tabernacle

There's an interesting incident in Daniel's life where he prayed and humbled himself for 21 days without hearing from God. When an angel finally appeared bearing God's response, he told Daniel that he had been sent from the moment that Daniel had started praying but had been resisted the entire time by the Prince of Persia.

I've told my Sunday school classes that our Christian walk is more like tennis than golf. In golf, our results are, pretty much, based on us; our preparation, our talent and our training. Tennis is different, though, because we have an opponent. Even when we do everything right, we still have to battle for a good result – and success is not always guaranteed.

After last week's newsletter went print, I regretted having included the last line of my commentary:

If we're not receiving God's wisdom, it's not because he's unwilling, but only because we haven't bothered to ask.

That was a simplistic and incorrect statement which ignores the fact that we need to contend for the faith. It also overlooks another simple but crucial fact of our Christian lives: Sometimes, we have to wait while God forms his answer within us.

Among mammals, the record for the shortest pregnancy goes to the Virginian opossum, which goes from conception to birth in 12 to 13 days. By contrast, human pregnancies are measured in months, and elephant pregnancies are measured in years!

The larger and more complex the animal, the longer the period of gestation. Similarly, while we can receive insight on small matters in a rather short amount of time, it takes a while for wisdom to be born. Wisdom, after all, comes from experience, and experience comes with time. We might not even recognize that God is imparting wisdom to us – just as a married couple doesn't realize that a baby is forming in the mother's womb until a few weeks after conception. Even after pregnancy is confirmed, and even with modern imaging technology, it takes a while for what has been conceived to become visible. All the while, things are progressing, and waiting is a normal and healthy part of the process.



In short, and in contrast to what I said before, if you've sought God for wisdom, don't despair over the wait. He has promised to give it to us, and he is faithful.

For the revelation awaits an appointed time ... and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. (Habakkuk 2:3)

Thanks for Praying!

Your prayers support us as we contend for the faith! Please join with us as we pray for:

- our summer ministries, including Alpha and our outreach programs to children and youth,
- God to send laborers and leaders with a love for our neighbors and our neighborhood,
- the academy and the upcoming school year, and
- multiplication!







One generation commends your works to another.

We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

We really do love hearing from you! Every message and phone call helps us keep going!

 PO Box 15191 Philadelphia, PA 19130
 17 th & Tioga Streets (3501 N 17 th Street) Philadelphia, PA 19140
 Church/Academy Office: (215) 226-1000
 Welcome@ResLife.AG

* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did you know?

Elephants are considered to be extremely intelligent, having a brain similar in structure to the human brain but about three times as large. Biologists believe that their brains are the main reason that they have a gestation period of about two years.

As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.

Ecclesiastes 11:5



Highway Mission Tabernacle ♦ Resurrection Life Church ♦ PO Box 15191 Philadelphia, PA 19130

Welcome@ResLife.AG ♦ Church: (215) 226-1000 ♦ Otis: (215) 266-5976

HighwayTabernacle.org ♦ ResLife.AG ♦ Sunday services at Noon: ResLife.stream

Archived Issues: <https://CrossAndCrown.online>