

THE BIG IDEA: The answer we're waiting for will never negate the promise we've already received.

The Take-Off

I'm not a guy who has a lot of visions, but standing in a Big Daddy Weave concert on July 31 at The refuge in Concord, I saw something so clearly that it took my breath, and I've been asking God ever since then when was the best time to share it with you.

I believe this morning is that time, and as I've prepared for it, I've prayed one simple prayer: God, don't let me overcomplicate what was simply powerful.

I've tried hard to not add more words than are necessary, because honestly, as much as I love speaking and writing with words, I recognize that a picture can be worth a thousand of them.

Well, that's not really true. The brain processes images 60,000 times faster than words, and so maybe a picture is worth 60,000 words!

Add to that the fact that this is an image you've seen countless times before today and will see countless times after, and I believe that what the Lord attached to this image for me that night in a concert carries nuclear power that can be a game changer for many of us in this room today.

So I'm simply breaking this into 2 parts: what I saw and what God showed me that it means for us corporately and personally.

Admittedly, the flow of this message may seem a little different, but I can already tell you how it's going to end: people (maybe YOU) standing right here being prayed for and encountering the presence of God in a powerful way. So, let's take a look at what I saw...

1. What I saw

- a. [Image - TYPING INDICATOR]
- b. I know, most of you were expecting something fiery, full of action and epic.
- c. But how can 3 dots be life-changing?
- d. If you're an iPhone user, you've seen this image when sending a text message to another iPhone user, but you may not know that it's called a typing indicator
- e. It's what you see after you've sent the message and are waiting for the reply
- f. I've never used an Android or Windows phone, so I'm not sure what those look like, but my guess is that they've got indicators, too
- g. But an image is only as powerful as the meaning it portrays, and that's where this is so good

2. What it means

- a. The typing indicator means that the message you sent was received and that the reply is coming, and God reminded me of a story in the Bible that's found in Daniel 10
- b. A little backdrop and then we'll get to some takeaways
 - The cultural environment Daniel is in is bad, and he's received a vision of coming war that so disturbed him that he fasted for 3 weeks
 - It was 3 weeks of mourning and desperation
 - It was 3 weeks of intense prayer for this man who was already a faithful man of prayer
 - It ended with a visit from an angel - probably Gabriel - and 2 truths that surely changed Daniel's outlook on prayer (and hopefully, ours, too)
 - Daniel 10:11 / carefully consider what I'm about to tell you / STAND UP
- c. That's when the angel delivered the bombshell that 2 things happen EVERY TIME we pray:
 - one, we are heard ("Since the first day ... your words were heard")
 - two, answers are sent ("I have come" - 21 days ago!)
- d. It's so easy to feel lost, ignored, unheard, invisible, forgotten, but the typing indicator is our proof that WE HAVE BEEN HEARD and GOD IS ANSWERING
- e. This is a game changer for how we live when all we see are the 3 dots!
- f. I love how one commentator put it: "If in our prayers amidst long protracted sorrows we believed God's angel is on his way to us, what consolation it would give us!"

- g. But that's not all. As I marinated on that, God gave me even more insight into the 3 dots.
- h. Grammatically, 3 dots are called an ellipsis, a term from the Greek word - you guessed it - ellipsis, which means "omission" or "falling short."
- i. It has come to represent things that can be left out without altering the original meaning
- j. God took it one step further. Culturally, 3 dots is a popular prison tattoo that means "my crazy life"
- k. Put those together and the 3 dots that God showed me standing in a Big Daddy Weave concert become a nuclear explosion of confidence for us when we are waiting for God's answer:
- l. He has heard us and His answer is on its way to us, and nothing that happens in my crazy life between the asking and the receiving has the power to alter the original promises of God!
- m. When we see the 3 dots, do we know what the specific answer will be? Of course not.
- n. But we know that the answer will never negate the promise!
- o. That's the Big Idea: **the answer we're waiting for will never negate the promise we've already received!**

3. So what?

- a. Let's ask the most important question of all as we wind this message down: "So what?"
- b. I saw 3 dots, it means the answer is on its way, but how does that help me where I am?
- c. Let me walk through just one situation and then I'll give you some others for you to consider: a parent who is watching his or her child make wrong choices.
- d. That parent - like Daniel - cries out in desperation, seeking to understand, and hears nothing.
- e. How, then, does this vision help? It reminds us of the 2 truths - our prayer is heard and the answer is sent - and that the answer will never negate the promise we've already received.
- f. What promise? How about Proverbs 22:6? Exodus 20:6?
- g. The 3 dots remind us that no matter what the answer is, it will be in line with those promises.
- h. So, no matter what you're facing - no matter what's happening in your crazy life - nothing that happens in the waiting can negate the promises of God about
 - PRAYER / 1 John 5:14 - He hears us!
 - PEOPLE / 1 Timothy 2:4 - God wants all men to be saved
 - God's PURPOSE / 2 Peter 3:9 - He wants none to perish
 - Our PURPOSE / Ephesians 2:10 - to do good works that glorify God
 - PRESENCE / Deut. 31:6; Hebrews 13:5

The Landing

I have a feeling that Daniel never prayed the same again, because he knew that every prayer was heard and answered, even if it meant seeing 3 dots during the waiting period.

I'm praying that you will be filled with the confidence, as well, of an expectant prayer, someone who prays like Daniel, who asks and then waits in HOPE for the answer.

This morning, I want to spend time praying for those here who, like Daniel, have been waiting on an answer while you hold onto a promise.

Let's pray.