



Come On

by Heather Acquistapace

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I needed a walk; the ants in my pants were telling me so. I asked my mom if she wanted to walk with me, and she gladly said yes, but first had to find her shoes. As she searched the house, I decided to prepare the family's happy dog, Dexter, for the walk.

For the black lab, the best thing in the entire world is going on a walk. He knows very well what the word "walk" means and when he hears it, he leaps into the air like an excited baby fawn. I looked down at the content dog and simply said, "Come on" and walked towards his leash. He instantly leapt to his paws and followed, not knowing where we were going. As I took hold of his leash, his ears perked up and he jumped into the air enthusiastically! I smiled as he frolicked around me, his tail wagging crazily. He gradually calmed down and I attached his leash to his collar. Dexter bolted for the road, ready to begin the exciting journey he anticipated.



"No," I said as I sat down, waiting for my mom to join us with her shoes. Dexter's tail drooped as he saw me sit, but he trotted to my side and sat down beside me, not knowing or understanding the delay. Yet, he did not whimper or pull the leash; he simply joined me in waiting.

Sometimes we feel like Dexter during our walk with Christ. The Lord may say, "Come on,"

and yet not tell us where. We should leap to our feet and follow into the unknown. Upon seeing our mission we become overjoyed at its greatness and possibilities. But, even with our most cherished dreams in sight, God may say, very gently but sternly, “No.” He may give no explanation, no further instructions; He may simply sit down and wait. For what? We often don’t know, but He does. God is pleased when we sit beside Him, without a word of plea or outburst. Why? Because He can see the big picture and we can only see a tiny peephole. He knows the exact moment to take action, and the precise time to sit back and wait for the opportunity.

A personal example of this is when I published my first book in 2011. I was thrilled at the accomplishment and was ready to begin marketing the book, organize book signings, and put my story into the right hands. “No,” God told me.

“What? Why not,” I asked, discouraged?

“No, just wait,” was all He said.

So I waited, not knowing how long I would have to wait, and wondering what God had in mind. About two weeks later, a dear friend of mine called and said she had a book signing organized for me at a writing fair. She had already asked the people in charge if I could attend, they had agreed, and they were even allowing me to have a free table at the writing fair. I was overjoyed and very grateful that I had waited on the Lord.

What do you think would have happened if I had not waited? If I had organized my own book signing, I would have to spend money on advertising, less people would come because I would be the only author; at the writing fair there were many authors. Also, if I had not waited, I would have disobeyed God and He would not have blessed the book signing therefore it would not be a success.

Do you feel as though you don’t know where God is leading you? Then you are not alone. Even the disciples experienced similar circumstances when Jesus called them into ministry by simply saying, “Come, follow Me” (Matthew 4:19a).

If God told us every detail of His plan, we would try to achieve it with our own weak, human abilities; I know I sure would. If we did that we would limit the greatness He had in mind. His way of doing things are “far beyond anything you could imagine” and His “thoughts are not like your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8). So why fight the uncertainty? Why become frustrated when you do not have control? When we are not in control and “make the Most High your shelter”, we then truly have peace because “no evil will conquer you, no pelage will come near your home” (Psalm 91:9-10).

Thoughts to Ponder

- *So what are you going to do the next time God whispers, “Come on”?*
- *Are you going to stay seated in your comfort zone, or are you going to stand and pursue Jesus?*

If you find it difficult to follow Christ, then tell Him so and ask for strength. He will help you. After all, He wants you to enjoy “a rich and satisfying life.” (John 10:10b). When you decide to follow God, life becomes far richer, and He will give you the strength to wait patiently, just like a dog waiting to go on a walk.