

**Waiting on God**  
*Presented by Lisa Bishop*  
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**Day One**

Have you ever felt wronged by someone at work? Maybe you are in the midst of a challenging situation right now. A coworker taking credit for something you poured your heart and soul into and now they are getting the kudos instead of you. Maybe you've been poorly treated, pushed aside for a promotion, or flat-out lied about. How do you react when your circumstances seem unfair?

Several years ago, I worked for an organization that was riddled with gossip and a few toxic personalities that made a huge impact on the culture. At one point I found myself being the target of gossip, and needless to say, I was sad, disappointed, and mad. Instead of responding in anger, I brought it to the Lord and asked him for wisdom. I prayed for insight and trusted he would guide me on how to respond and ultimately, he would make things right.

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:17-21).*

It can be tempting to launch a counterattack when you feel mistreated or maligned, but as followers of Jesus, in the midst of trying times, we are called to a higher way of being. You and I are called to wait; don't retaliate.

Now does this mean we should never speak up when we are mistreated? No. There are times when we need to address issues with grace, tact, and humility. The point is, it can be so enticing to fight back and let our emotions flare up, to dream up ways to get even. But when you are treated wrongly, keep in mind the world around you is watching. Through your self-restraint, fueled by faith that God sees and works on your behalf, the glory of God will be put on display and show people a better way.

The next time you find yourself wanting to react in the heat of the moment, take a deep breath and ground yourself in the Lord. Develop the habit of responding rightly when you are wronged. Wait, don't retaliate.

**Day Two**

What is something you are currently waiting for? Whether you're waiting for a job, vindication for an injustice, or a prodigal kid to come home, what you focus on when you wait matters.

In Psalm 25:5, King David is in the midst of waiting for deliverance from his enemies when he cries out, *guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.*

We're not sure of David's exact circumstances when he penned this plea to the Lord. While David is known for finding himself in sticky situations and long periods of waiting, one thing we see throughout the book of Psalms is how he waited on the Lord.

The origin of the word wait in Psalm 25 means to look for, to expect, to eagerly wait for, to bind together by twisting, be strong and robust, to stretch. You will be stretched in the waiting.

One commentary says the picture of binding and twisting is one of being intertwined with God in the midst of the waiting. In the waiting, there is the tension of enduring, of remaining, of relying on and depending on Jesus.

In the opening lines of David's prayer, we see the disposition of his heart as he opens with this powerful decree,

*In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause (Psalm 25: 1-3).*

David was intentional about his focus on God as he waited.

Psalm 25 is said to be "(It is) a wonderful display of the heart of a well-taught believer in a season of crisis" (The Enduring Word commentary).<sup>1</sup>

I'm not sure what you are waiting for, but as you wait, who are you fixing your eyes on? In the waiting, it is our responsibility to train our minds, our hearts, and our thoughts to remember the character of God. And when our faith feels like it is flailing, to remember God's faithfulness, preach the truth to ourselves and praise him. We can easily find ourselves focusing on pain or fear and forgo the reliance on God that waiting can produce. There is training and a forging of our faith as we grow in maturity in the wait.

As David ends his song to God, he makes one final request: *May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you* (Psalm 25:21). Let's make our petition to God, the author, and perfecter of our faith as we wait.

### Day Three

I want to remind you being patient with God's timing is worth the wait.

About five years into my faith journey, I was desperately seeking answers to what I should do with my life. At that time, I was in a corporate job I could do and do well, but it wasn't super fulfilling. I distinctly remember sitting in my living room talking to God saying, "God, I would really love to have a job where I get to do life with women, pouring into their faith and coming alongside them in every aspect of life." Well, let's just say that prayer was not answered until seven years later when "out of the blue," I received a call from the church I had been a member of for 12 years. They created a new position for a director of women's small groups, and they wanted me to apply.

Now you may think I am crazy, but I didn't initially see this opportunity as an answer to the prayer I had prayed seven years prior. It didn't look like what I thought it would, which is a story for another day. But after several weeks of prayer, I accepted the role. There are a couple things I want to point out in my story I hope will encourage you in the waiting.

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<sup>1</sup> Guzik, D. (2019, July 2). David Guzik Bible Commentary on Enduring Word. Enduring Word. <https://enduringword.com/>

The first is this: God does not always answer your prayers on your timeline. I know it is hard to hear. Especially if you have been waiting for quite some time. But God sees the full picture, and you don't. While it may seem unfair, God is the one who is aware of what you need and when you need it. His timing is perfect.

The second is this. Don't squander the time in the waiting. While my job in the corporate arena left gaps in me feeling content, I intentionally looked for ways to invest my time outside of work that were life-giving. And one of those ways was by getting deeply involved in serving at my church. Serving not only allowed me to use my gifts, but it also positioned me to practice ministry and build trust and credibility with church leadership, which ultimately resulted in being offered a full-time ministry position. All too often we can be so focused on what we want things to look like we miss God's provision in the meantime. How might God be calling you to invest your time as you wait?

The final thing I want to mention is you will not always get what you pray for. God answers all our prayers but the way he provides may be very different from your vision of his provision. This is where determining to trust the Lord comes into play.

The answer to your prayers may not look like you thought but as Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us,

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6).*

God's timing is worth the wait.

## Day Four

What do you radiate while you wait? When you find yourself waiting on God to come through, what is your attitude? We'll examine how we carry ourselves when we are counting on God to come through. It is not easy to maintain a good attitude in times of waiting. We may start to complain, get impatient, grumpy, angry, jealous, or even resentful.

What is your demeanor when you have to wait? No matter what it is you are waiting on God for, it's easy to have a negative disposition and the enemy will do his best to discourage you by getting your focus off God and fixed on the very thing you do not have.

But we can't allow the devil to take us on a downward spiral of negative thoughts or emotions. The feelings that come with waiting will be real but when they arise, we need to bring them all to God. Talk to him and be honest about your frustration, your worry, doubt, fear, or resentment. After all, he already knows our hearts anyway.

Scripture teaches us to remain hopeful in our times of waiting. Hope, by definition, has the connotation of waiting. It is an expectation of something to happen. We can put our hope in a lot of things, but as Christians ultimately our hope is in Christ. We can always count on him to come through at his appointed time.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7).*

Don't let your feelings fool you and pull you into a negative spin cycle. I know it is easier said than done, but focus on the faithfulness of God so you can radiate the spiritual fruit of patience, peace, joy, and faithfulness as you wait.

Waiting is hard but wouldn't you rather look back on this time knowing you didn't get sucked into complaining but instead you practiced reigning in your thoughts and attitudes? Plus, our attitudes leak onto the people around us. We've all been around people who cannot seem to regulate their emotions when things don't go their way. This doesn't mean you aren't allowed to feel moments of impatience, disappointment, or dismay, but as a follower of Jesus, we are called to have faith as we wait. If you find yourself waiting on God to move on your behalf, how can you focus on giving off a grateful glow because you know God is faithful as you wait? It may not be easy, but it will be worth it.

## Day Five

I want to examine the blessing of waiting on God. I know waiting and blessing may not seem like they go hand in hand, but they often do. It's our perspective that can blind us to seeing the blessing. We live in a fast-paced world where instant gratification is the norm. Fast is at our fingertips. Yet, as followers of Jesus, our spiritual journey often requires us to wait, and waiting can test our patience, reveal our faith, and temper with our trust in God.

*But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40:31).*

This verse is a powerful reminder that waiting on God is not passive. It is an intentional and active engagement of our faith. Isaiah teaches us it's actually in the waiting God renews our strength, gives us endurance, and prepares us for the journey ahead. Waiting builds resilient faith because we acknowledge the sovereignty and timing when we wait on God, admitting his plans are higher than ours and his understanding surpasses our own. This act of surrender is crucial for our spiritual growth. It's easy to rush ahead and try to force our plans, but God's timing is perfect. He sees the bigger picture we cannot see. He knows what you need and when you need it.

The story of Abraham and Sarah is an example of waiting. God promised them a son, but they had to wait 25 years for Isaac's birth. Their time of waiting wasn't without struggle and doubt, yet God deepened their faith as they relied on him. When you find yourself in a season of waiting it's important to stay connected to God through prayer, Scripture, and worship. Sometimes that is the last thing we want to do because waiting can cause our hearts to grow weary toward God. Waiting involves an expectant hope, trusting God will come through at the right moment.

Waiting is also a time for preparation. God might be preparing your heart for something greater, something you're not ready for just quite yet.

If we let it, waiting on God brings us closer to him. In our desperation and dependence, we draw near to the heart of the Father. We learn to lean on him, to trust him, and to love him more deeply.

So, if you find yourself in a season of waiting, be encouraged. God is with you. He has not forgotten you. Use this time to strengthen your faith, grow your relationship with him, and prepare for the good things he has in store.