

**Waiting with God**  
*Presented by Lauren Stibgen*  
Air Dates: July 29 - Aug 2, 2024

**Day One**

Are you waiting for something? Waiting is defined as a period of pause, interval, or delay. A noun. What are some of the things we wait for? As working women, the complexity of this list can span far beyond your day-to-day job. Waiting can be professional, but it can also be deeply personal.

At work maybe you are waiting for a promotion or a raise or even recognition and reward for a job well done. Personally, you may be waiting for health or healing, children, friendship, marriage, love, a new home, or other provision. Is it waiting to be reunited? Or reconciliation? Do you need an apology or are you waiting to give one? This list is not exhaustive.

One of the ways I reassure myself during times of waiting is in knowing I am not alone. We all experience times of waiting. Often the Bible describes this waiting as a period in the wilderness or a valley. These words, wilderness and valley seem big, deep, maybe dark, and like you may be losing your way. It can bring us to ask questions of God. The words in Psalm 77:7-9 that Asaph writes resonate:

*Will the Lord reject forever?  
Will he never show his favor again?  
Has his unfailing love vanished forever?  
Has his promise failed for all time?  
Has God forgotten to be merciful?  
Has he in anger withheld his compassion (Psalm 77:7-9)?*

This interval or delay can be as short as hours or as long as years. It's really just any amount of time that exceeds what we have deemed as reasonable in our own mind. It is a period of time we have asked and not received, sought an answer and haven't found it, and knocked on a door that has not yet been answered like we are told to do in Matthew 7:7-8.

When that "acceptable time passes", our questions start.

The good news is there is another side of waiting we will talk about this week, because waiting isn't only a noun.

**Day Two**

Yesterday we talked about how the simple noun, waiting, can cause us to ask God some hard questions. We experience feelings about a period of waiting when something doesn't happen in the amount of time we have assigned in our minds that seems reasonable.

This waiting can lead to many different feelings. The challenge with these feelings is they can lead to other actions which may not lead to the best outcome for us.

Think about becoming impatient for an answer you are waiting for. This impatience starts to brew and bubbles into anger. We have all been there. Thinking about why someone hasn't called back or gotten back to you. Maybe your foot is tapping, or you are pacing in your office. Finally, you erupt and in that angry moment you call and accuse the other party of stalling. Silence is on the other end of the line. The person hadn't called back because they were sick.

Now think about waiting for a call from a recruiter for a job you not only want, but desperately need. The waiting is making you anxious. You are fearful someone else will get the job, and you won't have enough financial provision for your family.

You have a disagreement with someone at work, and you are waiting for the right moment to apologize. You are overburdened with the feelings associated with this needed apology.

After waiting for feedback from a job interview you find out you have been passed over for a promotion. You feel worthless and lack hope because you heard through the grapevine and not the hiring manager for the job.

All your closest friends are married. You are still waiting to find love. You find yourself feeling lonely and sad. Impatient, angry, anxious, fearful, overburdened, worthless, hopeless, lonely and sad. Heavy emotions. God offers us an opportunity for other feelings in the waiting.

Loved:

*Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love (1 John 4:8).*

Hopeful:

*There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off (Proverbs 23:18).*

Patient:

*Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick tempered displays folly (Proverbs 14:29).*

Calm/Peaceful:

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid (John 14:27).*

We have all had feelings that the Lord hasn't dealt with us fairly or answered us in our time, but he does offer us other ways to feel if we are abiding with him in the Word.

### Day Three

Being a faithful follower of Jesus Christ by no means makes us perfect in any way. In Romans 7 verses 18-20, Paul sums it up well.

*For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it (Romans 7:18-20).*

These verses above summarize the fact that even though I follow Jesus, I am still prone to sin. Often, we can see this sin in the feelings that manifest in the waiting. But what we forget is God's timing is perfect, not ours.

This week, I defined the feelings we experience in waiting and the questions we ask God a result of the difference between what we think is a reasonable time for an answer or result and the time it takes to actually happen—even if it does happen. It is very easy for us to forget how great God is. When I say great, I am not necessarily talking about his goodness, but rather his omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence. All knowing, all powerful, and all present. God is everywhere, in everything at all times—even right now. God transcends any temporal and worldly notions we have of time.

*A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night (Psalm 90:4).*

*But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day (2 Peter 3:8).*

These two verses capture how limited we are in our thinking of how God experiences time. Ecclesiastes 3:11 is my favorite about God's timing.

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end (Ecclesiastes 3:11).*

God makes everything beautiful in its time. And what is more beautiful is he gives us eternity with him through Christ Jesus. This good word reminds us we cannot fathom all he does!

The implications of waiting are this. God's timing in all things is perfect and, in our waiting, we need to remember this.

## Day Four

While women in the Bible waited, they also experienced a result—in God's time. There are other women who waited in the Bible, and although we don't always receive a depiction of their feelings, we can step into their shoes for a moment and imagine how they would feel. One of the most overlooked stories of waiting is in the book of Luke.

*And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.*

*"Who touched me?" Jesus asked.*

*When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."*

*But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."*

*Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace" (Luke 8:43-48).*

Let's consider this woman—she bled for 12 years. Her physical health was ailing. She was likely very uncomfortable and tired.

She spent all her savings on physicians. We don't know if she was well off, but we do know she was experiencing financial hardship due to her condition. Was she fearful? Anxious?

In her time, this condition was considered unclean. She could not worship in the temple. It is likely she could not marry and was not around other family. She was isolated. Was she sad, angry, lonely, hopeless?

What we do know is she had great faith. She knew Jesus was a great healer, and he was compassionate. Jesus would not care that she was touching him, while others had deemed her unclean. To Jesus, she was perfect and loved as his child.

In her healing, let's now imagine her feelings. Joy, relief, gratitude? While we don't know about what she did next, one can imagine her praise for how God had delivered her from her struggles.

When God delivers you from the waiting, how do you respond? Are you giving him glory and praise? Earlier this week we talked about waiting as a noun. But waiting can also be an adjective, meaning, we can be active in our waiting!

## Day Five

We are going to look at the other definition of waiting: serving or being in attendance. An adjective. How is God calling you to "waiting" in action while you are in the waiting? I know this may sound funny, but waiting doesn't mean you need to be stuck! God calls you to action as a follower of Jesus.

I have a list of reminders I call God's to do list when I feel stuck. Often this is in the waiting. I am seeking his wisdom or discernment, or I find myself waiting for other things we have already discussed. My reminders include: love, work as to him, be in his Word, pray, reflect and observe, repent, and give gratitude. This is not an exhaustive list, but it is a biblical list of how God calls us to action—not only in the waiting but in our everyday life as followers of Jesus Christ. In the waiting we are called to love!

*But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked (Luke 6:35).*

Sometimes we are waiting because of conflict—here we are called to love those we are in turmoil with. In the waiting we are called to work!

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving (Colossians 3:23-24).*

If you are waiting for that new job, a promotion or the raise, fix your work on the Lord! In the waiting, be in the word and pray and praise!

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).*

In all circumstances, even in the waiting, we need to pray and rejoice! In the waiting God calls us to repent.

*Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy (Proverbs 28:13).*

God is calling you to action in the waiting. How are you loving others? Are you in God's Word? Are you praying in the waiting? What do you need to repent of in the waiting? Maybe feelings that are contrary to what God is wanting you to feel.

Waiting doesn't need to keep you stuck! You can still be active in the waiting. Pray God changes your heart to what he has for you in this season.