

I Hate to Wait

Bible Study • Study Guide

I wait for the alarm to go off and for the coffee to brew. I wait to take my husband to work and then wait again in the parking lot when I pick him up. I wait in grocery lines and at so many stoplights. I wait for that irritatingly slow car in front of me that I just can't seem to pass. I wait for dinner to cook and wait for the time to return to bed at the end of the day.

But Lord, I hate to wait. I can't stand the excruciating clock that ticks away with no answers. The doctor doesn't call. The pain is unending. The peace and joy inside are squashed with fear. I have decisions to make and I don't hear You respond. I want direction — now! I want an answer — now! I want a “fix” for my problems — now! Am I the only one who feels this way?

Opening Prayer: Holy Spirit, guide us in the study of God's Word, that our eyes may be opened to the value and blessings of waiting on Him. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen!

Why the Wait?

In this fast-paced, fast-food, instant-Internet mentality, schedules are so busy that we feel the need for things to be done in a hurry. Finding time to do in-depth Bible study is nearly impossible; it just takes too long. So, we do our best to have minute prayers and five-minute devotions. It seems that everything in life needs to be done quickly. After all, isn't “faster,” better?

As we become accustomed to this fast-everything approach to life, we expect God to respond in the same manner. If God does not answer quickly in the way we want Him to, we are tempted to handle it ourselves, as quickly as possible, thinking, “Why should we wait for God's divine teaching, instruction, and guidance in His Word? We just don't have the time!”

Yet it is through God's Word that He opens our eyes to the value and blessings of waiting on Him. In Psalm 27, David desired to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of [his] life and to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. David cried out:

*You have said, “Seek my face.”
My heart says to you,
“Your face, Lord, do I seek.”
Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.*

*Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!
Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies (verses 8–9, 11).*

And how did David do that? By waiting!

*I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!
Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord! (verses 13–14).*

God wanted David to be strong in his time of waiting. And it was God who gave him the strength to do so.

Read these references from the Psalms, noting the growth of trust and hope-filled expectation that can take place during the waiting process.

Share how the Holy Spirit has brought you comfort during a time of waiting. _____

Psalm 25:4–5

Psalm 31:24

Psalm 33:20–22

Psalm 37:5–7

Psalm 38:15

Psalm 40:1–4a

Psalm 119:164–166

Psalm 130:5–7

Psalm 145:17–19

Soar Like the Eagles

Isaiah 40:28–31 is a favorite passage of mine that refers to the strength and power in the Lord received through waiting.

After reading Isaiah 40:28–31, record your thoughts and impressions as to how it applies to your own personal life. _____

Waiting instills courage in us, His courage. Waiting gives us strength, His strength. Waiting gives us eagles' wings, His wings. Waiting grants us the ability to run and walk without fainting, through His power.

The everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth, is the Giver of all good things. It is He that provides our souls with what we need to make it through difficult times.

Know That He Waits for You

Read Isaiah 30:18. As we wait for Him — not just for answers, but for Him — how exciting to know that He also waits for us. He waits for us to call upon Him so that He can be gracious to us. He desires to show us His mercy. He yearns to bless us with His power, His strength, and Himself. It is His ultimate hope and joy. Give an example of how waiting has been a blessing in your life.

Read Ephesians 3:16–21. How do these words of the apostle Paul bring strength and courage to you? _____

With each waiting day and each waiting moment, we learn to praise God for His response to our greatest need — the need for a Savior, Christ Himself, to redeem us by His blood and reconcile us to God the Father. Christ's victory on the cross has swallowed up our sins; He promises to never leave us nor forsake us, especially when waiting makes our lives seem unbearable. Through His resurrection, He will grant His salvation to us, here and in eternity, as we go through the valley of our waiting times.

Speak aloud Lamentations 3:21–26:

*But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;*

*his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”
The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.*

Because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him.” The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Closing Prayer: Dear Father in heaven, help me to rejoice in You as I go through my difficult times of waiting. As I remember that You also wait for me, may I desire to spend more time in fellowship with You. Grant me Your strength, Your power, and Your hope as I walk hand in hand with Your Son, Jesus. In His name, I pray. Amen.

Sing: “Great is Thy Faithfulness” (LSB 809).

Bible verses are taken from the ESV translation unless otherwise noted.

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