

Waiting

Devotion

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope (Romans 15:13).*

My phone rings. My son-in-law tells me that my seven-and-a-half-months pregnant daughter is having trouble and that the baby needs to be delivered soon. I live 1,000 miles away – what can I do? And so, I pray and cry and trust that the Lord will take care of them. Time passes more slowly than I can ever imagine when finally, my phone rings – I receive a picture of my very exhausted, but beaming, daughter and a very tiny but healthy baby boy. I cry and praise God for His mercy in this miracle.

In another time and another place, my phone rings. My sister tells me that I need to come home immediately; my mother will not make it through the next day. I am 1,000 miles away – what can I do? I pray and cry and trust that the Lord will watch over my mom and my family in this time of sorrow. I get on an airplane and wait. The time and miles pass more slowly than I can ever imagine. When I am finally at my mom's side in the hospital, we cry and praise the Lord that He is here, ready to carry her home in His loving arms.

Waiting is standard in this life. We wait for a show to begin, for a new book to come out, for dinner to finish cooking, for grandchildren to come for a visit. Waiting is nothing new to us. But there is waiting that can bring us to our knees – waiting for a check to come in the mail, for a doctor's phone call, for a loved one to come home from serving in a dangerous place, here or abroad. What do we do while we wait? We pray and cry and trust that the Lord is right beside us while we wait.

We have the promises of God through these times, and He always keeps His promises. Let the words given to us by our loving God fill your heart as you wait:

*but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:31).*

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fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God (Isaiah 41:10a).
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*Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9b).*



Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me (John 14:1).



*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled,
neither let them be afraid (John 14:27).*



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so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope (Romans 15:13).*

Prayer: Gracious God, as I wait, help me to remember that You are always with me and will never forsake me. Fill me with the peace and hope that only You can give. Thank You for Your words that comfort me and Your promises that never fail. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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