

Growing Through Waiting

The Rat Race Of life

- We live in a NOW society. Instant society!
- Cell Phones, Emails, Internet on Cell Phones
- We grow impatient waiting 6 seconds for a program or webpage to open.
- We would rather do anything but wait, even if it is the wrong course of action.
- “Don’t just stand there! Do something!”
- Maybe God would say, “Don’t just do something, stand there!”

The Peace Of Resting In God

- If we had 3 minutes of silence in the service, are you comfortable with that? Would you know what to do?
- Growth in our spiritual lives happens when we wait patiently for God.
- God’s way is not automatic nor easy
- Often, God’s way, is to wait and trust Him during times when we think we should be “doing!”

Old Testament “Waiters”

- Noah – Given a command and a promise Gen.6:13,14,17-18, 22 then worked for 120 yrs
 - Takes faith to stay at it
 - Heb.11:6 says faith is mandatory. If that is true, wouldn’t God give you opportunities to exercise faith? Often by waiting
- Job – Waiting in Suffering
 - Loss of wealth, children, health
 - Job’s counsellors! ?
 - In suffering never cursed God.
 - Job 38-41 God Responded - Job 42 – God Blessed

Old Testament “Waiters”

- Abraham – Given a promise of becoming a great nation at age 75.
 - Was given son 25 years later
 - Died at age 175 never seeing the reality of that promise
- Joseph – Was promised he would be a leader
 - Sold into slavery by brothers – 12-15 yrs old?
 - Falsey accused of sexual assault – put in prison
 - Forgotten by people he helped
 - 30 years old when appointed as Prime Minister of Egypt

Old Testament “Waiters”

- Moses – Adopted son of Pharaoh’s daughter
 - Taught by mother till age of 7 who he was
 - Heir apparent to the throne, top military leader
 - At 40 tried to do on his own what he felt God calling him to do, using the methods he had been taught by military
 - Spent 40 years in desert learning to lead sheep and the ways of the desert, being taught to survive in the desert
 - Probably felt confused about his purpose. He knew what he was called to do, but why was he here leading sheep?
 - Finally lead people of God to freedom for 40 yrs

New Testament "Waiters"

- **Jesus** – Learned to wait for the Father
 - Matt.3:17- 4:3; Mark 1:29-38; Luke 6:12-16
 - John 5:17, 19; 30; 12:49-50; 14:31
- **Disciples** – Luke 24:49 Told to wait for the H.S.
 - Acts 1:14 – 4:18-31 people devoted to prayer, waiting
 - Acts 12:1-18 - Waiting for Peter in Prison
- **Paul** – Acts 9 Waiting for New Life
 - Acts 16:6,7 Waiting on God for direction
 - Acts. 16:22-26 Waiting for Freedom

Other "Waiters"

- **George Mueller** – supply for his orphans
- **Hudson Taylor** – waiting on God for finances - CIM
- **William Wilberforce** - waiting for 20 years to see slavery abolished in the Commonwealth
- **DL Moody** – waited for spiritual power
- **Fern Vigh** – delivered from anorexia through a friend fasting and waiting on God
- **The church in Lavington** – direction and finances
- **Waiting for direction**

Principles of Waiting

1. Waiting on God is the rule ...The open door is the exception
2. Waiting is Resting, enjoying God ... Not worrying
3. Remember who God is
 - He Loves You – Therefore, this is for your good.
 - He is Sovereign- Therefore, this is not a mistake.
 - He is All Powerful- Therefore, He can give you the strength you need to go through this!

How to Wait

- **Psalm 62**
- 1. Wait for God to Direct your steps - vs.1
- 2. Trust God to provide your need – vs.1,2,8
- 3. Do it in Silence - vs.1,5 – whisper softly
- 4. Do it in Hope – vs. 5
- 5. Do it in Faith – vs.8 Quiet waiting is an expression of faith.

Waiting is

Waiting is Trusting
Waiting is Praying
Waiting is Resting
Waiting is Abiding