

### **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?
  - Falsely 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**