

Some Thoughts on Waiting on God

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To be honest, I'm not sure to whom I'm writing this post today—but I suspect somebody needs to hear it. As I prayerfully consider topics for this site, this one continues to come to mind, waiting on God. The shepherd/ pastor in me comes to life when I'm reminded of believers who increasingly grow impatient with God, and I want us to pray for one another about that issue today.

So, I begin simply with some Bible texts that remind me that I need to let God redeem my impatience:

- 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” (Isa 40:31)
- “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” (Psa 27:14)
- “I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning” (Psa 130:5-6)
- “But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me” (Mic 7:7).

When I read these verses, waiting seems so easy. We simply look forward to the day when God is going to respond, and we stay focused on Him in the meantime. Waiting is seldom that easy, however.

Why, then, does God require us to wait?

1. **Waiting reminds us that He is in charge.** We're not in charge of the calendar or the clock. We don't control all things. Only God does, and His calling us to wait reminds us of that truth.
2. **Waiting teaches us faith.** Faith is the evidence of things unseen, the confidence of things not yet taking place (Heb. 11:1). The concept almost assumes a gap in timing between our request and God's response. If everything happened immediately, faith would be less necessary.
3. **Waiting makes us grateful.** When we pray for something and God requires us to wait, we are more grateful when He finally does respond positively to our prayers. And, we learn in a strange way to be grateful as we wait even if He chooses to respond “no” to our prayers,
4. **Waiting reveals our idolatries.** If we simply can't wait on God, it's likely because something we want to happen is more important to us than God's overall plan. We think our plan is so right that God needs to respond to it right now.
5. **Waiting prepares us for whatever God has for us in the future.** Whatever God's plan is, waiting is often God's way of saying, “You're not ready to receive what you want yet.” He knows our hearts, and He alone knows when He needs to do some work in us before granting our request. Our call is to trust Him in the meantime.

I'm praying that God will grant patience and hope to many of our readers today. Let us know how we might together pray for you.