



Pastor's Corner

Waiting = the action of staying where one is or delaying action until a particular time or until something else happens. Waiting on God = hard. There are so many great scriptures that talk about waiting on God: from Psalm 40:1-2 we hear, *"I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure;"* and in Isaiah 40:31 God promises that *"those 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."* Also from Isaiah, we hear, *"O Lord, we wait for you; your name and remembrance are the desire of our soul"* (Isaiah 26:8) and *"From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him"* (Isaiah 64:4).

Waiting on God is a daily part of living the life of faith. But it's hard—we don't like waiting. We live in a culture of "now." Why put off what you can do NOW?? Why wait when you can be instantly gratified in limitless ways. But, as people of faith, we should know how to wait, intrinsically. After all, it's what we've been doing for thousands of years: first, people of faith waited for the Messiah. Then Jesus was born—finally the Savior they had been waiting for! Only it turned out that Jesus wasn't going to redeem the world in the manner in which they expected it, and they needed to wait some more, until He comes again and brings His work to completion. And so we, too, wait.

David Mathis, pastor and executive editor for desiringgod.org, writes about patience while waiting. "When you feel resistance during times of waiting, let it be a reminder to go God-ward. Recalibrate the focus of your faith. Move the weight of your trust off self, where it keeps gravitating back, and consciously reorient on God. Whether it's spare moments or seemingly endless days, waiting is no waste in God's economy. It is in the delays and the pauses, and in becoming aware of our lack of patience, that he works to save us from self-reliance and revitalize our faith and hope in him."

Waiting is no waste in God's economy. In fact, we are called to wait upon Him. That's why we Christians have Advent and Lent: two intentional times of waiting, so that we can get out of the rat-race of our existence and remember that we are called to be still and wait in anticipation of all that God will do in our lives (as we reflect on all that He has done and is doing). But shouldn't we always wait on God? Now that Advent is over, I invite you to continue the spiritual practice of waiting with me. Set aside time daily to do it. Schedule it into your day. If you're like me, set an alarm to remember. And then just sit and be still and wait upon the Lord. It's not a waste of time; rather, it is time that God uses to instruct, lead and help us grow in our faith. So, doing what might seem to be "nothing" could be everything.

Have a blessed day, **Kara**