

Bible Study about Waiting

Waiting

There are times when it seems that waiting is a full time job. For example, if you've got doctors' appointments to go to, you can find yourself waiting for a ride, waiting in the waiting room, waiting for some medication to take effect during an exam, waiting at the lab for those tests the doctor has assigned you to have done, and waiting for results once you get home.

Our study today will look at the concept of a waiting from the perspective of faith.

I. Waiting as a sign of strength

There is something very interesting about the Hebrew word for "wait". It is actually based on the word for "to twist a rope". When you twist the cords of a rope, the tension increases, but with that increasing tension, there is increasing strength. The Hebrews applied this to the word "wait", because they believed that the experience of waiting for something makes you stronger. The word is translated in English not just as "wait" but "look for" and "hope".

A. Waiting as a test of faith

1. Psalm 27:13-14 What inspired the Psalmist to wait?
2. Isaiah 41:10 What is the source of strength in waiting?

B. Waiting as a response to stress

1. Isaiah 59:9 What was troubling the people so much that they found themselves waiting for something better?
2. Jeremiah 8:14 In this case, where was the problem found that was endangering the people?
3. Job 7:2-4 What is it that Job is waiting for here?

C. Waiting for help

1. Psalm 39:6-8. Why is the Psalmist waiting for the Lord?
2. Psalm 25:20-21 In this case, the word for "wait", is translated as "hope". What gives hope to David while he waits?

II. Waiting as an experience of faith

1. Psalm 40:1-2 How was David's waiting blessed by God?
2. Psalm 130:5-6 How does waiting describe the Psalmist's relationship with God?
3. Isaiah 33:2 What does this say about Isaiah's faith?

III. Waiting as a service to God

A. Waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled

1. Isaiah 51:5 For what are believers asked to wait?
2. Habakkuk 2:3 How long do believers have to wait?
3. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 What are we waiting for?

B. Waiting as the purpose of faith

1. 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 How does Paul describe the faith of the Thessalonian Christians?
2. Romans 8:22-25 What is the purpose of faith as described here?
3. Lamentations 3:25-26 What is the benefit of waiting?
4. Jude 21 What are we supposed to do while we wait?

IV. How we wait

A. With alertness

1. Mark 13:35 Why must we be on guard while we are waiting?
2. Philippians 4:7 How are we able to stay on guard?

B. With joy

1. John 3:27-29 How did John the Baptist wait for Jesus?
2. 1 John 1:2-4 How did proclaiming the Gospel bless John in His waiting?

Wait, thou, my soul upon the Lord
He is thy strength and life
Lift up thy heart – mount up and fly
Above the stress and strife
For there thy strength shall be renewed
In that celestial sphere
Then through the valley thou canst walk
by faith and not by fear

Wait thou, my soul, upon the Lord,
And with the wings of faith,
Rise to the mountain tops of truth
Where each reviving breath
Shall fill thy soul with songs of joy,
And on the sacred height
Renew thy strength to walk the plain,
Amid the gloom of night.

Psalm 27:13-14 I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 59:9 So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows.

Jeremiah 8:14 Why are we sitting here? Gather together! Let us flee to the fortified cities and perish there! For the LORD our God has doomed us to perish and given us poisoned water to drink, because we have sinned against him.

Job 7:2-4 Like a slave longing for the evening shadows, or a hired labourer waiting to be paid, so I have been allotted months of futility, and nights of misery have been assigned to me. When I lie down I think, 'How long before I get up?' The night drags on, and I toss and turn until dawn.

Psalm 39:6-8 "Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom; in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth without knowing whose it will finally be. But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you. Save me from all my transgressions; do not make me the scorn of fools.

Psalm 25:20-21 Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, LORD, is in you.

Psalm 40:1-2 I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

Psalm 130:5-6 I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Isaiah 33:2 LORD, be gracious to us; we long for you. Be our strength every morning, our salvation in time of distress.

Isaiah 51:5 My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm.

Habakkuk 2:3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 ...You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Romans 8:22-25 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Lamentations 3:25-26 The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Jude 21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Mark 13:35 Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

John 3:27-29 To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.

1 John 1:2-4 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.