

Ecclesiastes 7:8 (MSG)

Endings are better than beginnings. Sticking to it is better than standing out.

Waiting on the Lord may be one of the most difficult aspects of the Christian life. We all want good things to happen in our lives, but too often we want it now... not later. When it doesn't happen that way, we are tempted to ask, "When, God, when?". Most of us need to grow in the area of trusting God instead of focusing on the "when" question. If you're missing joy and peace, you're not trusting God. If your mind feels worn out all the time, you're not trusting God. As a society we are so used to instant gratification, that we have lost the ability to be patient. The bottom line is that instant gratification costs something. You may get what you want now, but you'll pay dearly for it in the end. We so often push for getting it now that we lose out on what God has planned for us.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 (MSG)

There's a Right Time for Everything There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth: A right time for birth and another for death, A right time to plant and another to reap, A right time to kill and another to heal, A right time to destroy and another to construct, A right time to cry and another to laugh, A right time to lament and another to cheer, A right time to make love and another to abstain, A right time to embrace and another to part, A right time to search and another to count your losses, A right time to hold on and another to let go, A right time to rip out and another to mend, A right time to shut up and another to speak up, A right time to love and another to hate, A right time to wage war and another to make peace. But in the end, does it really make a difference what anyone does? I've had a good look at what God has given us to do—busywork, mostly. True, God made everything beautiful in itself and in its time—but He's left us in the dark, so we can never know what God is up to, whether He's coming or going. I've decided that there's nothing better to do than go ahead and have a good time and get the most we can out of life. That's it—eat, drink, and make the most of your job. It's God's gift. I've also concluded that whatever God does, that's the way it's going to be, always. No addition, no subtraction. God's done it and that's it. That's so we'll quit asking questions and simply worship in holy fear. Whatever was, is. Whatever will be, is.

No one likes to wait. But we wait... in traffic, in queues, on calls to solve a problem, for the delivery of our online purchase, for the next episode of our series, for an appointment, for sermons to get over! Waiting is not just something we have to do while we get what we want. Waiting is the process of becoming what God wants us to be. What God does in us while we wait is as important as what it is we are waiting for.

Waiting...

1. Waiting on the Lord requires patient trust
 - Waiting means that we give God the benefit of the doubt that He knows what He is doing.
 - Waiting is God's way of seeing if we will trust Him before we move forward.

James 1:2-4 (MSG)

Faith Under Pressure

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colours. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

We have to trust that God knows what He is doing.

2. Waiting on God reminds us that God is in control

- Waiting reminds me that I am not in charge.
- Waiting reminds me that I am not God.

Proverbs 16:9 (MSG)

We plan the way we want to live, but only God makes us able to live it.

We need to let God take the wheel.

3. Waiting on the Lord allows God to do His work

- God's timing is best.
- God is working.

Those who wait will never be put to shame. We will never be disappointed.

4. Waiting on God increases my strength

- In times of waiting my soul is revived and my spirit is renewed.

Isaiah 40:31 (MSG)

But those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, They run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind.

The time will come when those who wait on the Lord will soar.

So in closing just take out this one word: **WAIT**

- Watch with expectancy, but be prepared for unexpected answers (***Psalm 5:3***).
- Put your hope in his Word (***Psalm 130:5-6***).
- Trust in the Lord, not in your own understanding (***Proverbs 3:5-6***).
- Resist fretting, refrain from anger, be still, and choose patience (***Psalm 37:7-8***).
- Be strong and take courage (***Psalm 27:13-14; 31:24***).
- Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful with thanksgiving (***Colossians 4:2***).
- And remember ----- the blessings yet to come (***Isaiah 30:18***).