

## Daily Devotional, May 27, 2020 In God's Waiting Room

It's hard to wait, isn't it? Even when you have a strong faith. Even when you trust God. Even when you know and believe God's promises. Waiting. It's just plain hard. I know, I've done my fair share of waiting over the years. I've waited on life or death situations, for physical and emotional healing, for relationships to mend, for marriages to restore, and for suffering to end. I've grappled, reasoned, bargained, begged, and pleaded with God as I waited, hoped, and prayed.

You may be worn out and weary of waiting...for something, or someone, to change, for circumstances to get better, for a solution to a family issue, for the doctor's diagnosis, for the next paycheck to come (or the government bailout check, or unemployment check). Or maybe you're simply waiting to fit in, to connect with friends, to feel at home, to be included, to be accepted, to just be visible, if only virtually.

We don't understand why it takes so long for all the pieces of life to come together again, or the answers we want to come. Trust me, I know from experience the pieces of life will come together—in God's perfect timing, not ours. The answer will come—God's answer, although it may not always be the answer we want. Above all else, trust our sovereign God. He is faithful in all things—always, forever, and no matter what. Even if you don't understand at the time just what in the heck He's doing.

This much I do know. It's during the waiting—during the space between the now and then—that much is learned. God's waiting room is not a bad place to be. When I am waiting, He takes me to a deeper level of trusting Him. I hang out in His word and hang on to His promises. He brings me to a point where I have to let go of all my expectations and wants and cling only to Him.

He teaches me a whole lot about patience, and about what I can control and what I can't. So many times in my impatience I try to run ahead of God to fix, change, manage, plan or arrange the results I want, rather than waiting on Him. I short-circuit what God is going to do by doing what I think is best. He is all-knowing and His ways are not my ways.

I've learned that at the end of myself and my striving, is the beginning of a deeper yearning for Him. Only God can redeem the word "wait".

***1 " I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. 2 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. 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him." Psalm 40: 1-3 (NIV)***

Are you presently in God's waiting room? Well, don't just sit there! You'll end up in the pit of despair. Instead—wait actively. Get up and get out. Take a walk—take a walk with a friend, volunteer for helping others, such as delivering items of need to those who can't get out. If they are reopening, go to the gym, join a Zoom Bible Study, plant flowers or vegetables, work on a home project, put together a puzzle—whatever you can do to keep your mind, body, and emotions healthy.

Wait with your eyes focused on Jesus, not on your circumstances. It's so natural for your circumstances to be all-consuming and all you think about. Believe me, that's not going to change a thing. Try changing your focus to consume Jesus. Focus on His promises in scripture, listen to praise and worship music, read the Book of Psalms in the Bible, read a chapter and meditate on it throughout the day. Read a devotion to start your day or listen to a Christ-centered message on a podcast. Close your day with a devotion or a Bible reading. Focus on your blessings, not your hardships. Be grateful, not resentful. Focus on praying, not complaining.

***14 Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." Psalm 27:14 (NIV)***

Be encouraged as you wait. You are not alone. There are many of us waiting right there with you...

***Prayer: Lord, I earnestly seek after you and your will today. I lay my plans before you and I give you the desires of my heart. Help me to rely on you in every area of my life. Thank you for the patience to wait on you and appreciate where I am right now. I trust you, that the plans you have for me are good. Sharpen my character and transform my heart. In Christ's name. Amen.***