



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO US

I've got a friend that is a planner. He and his wife have saved and planned since we met them 35 years ago. If he wants a fishing boat, he makes a plan and begins a regimented step by step process on getting that boat. It might take him 5 years, but whatever happens, short of death, he is going to make his plan happen.

Earlier this summer this friend came to me and said, "It feels like my prayers are not getting to God". He's been waiting and waiting for God's answers and even stressing as he doesn't see any movement. We talked for a while and I tried to reassure him that God certainly was hearing his prayers, if his heart and life were in alignment with God's. He knew deep down that God had a plan and like my friend, God would see it through. It was just really difficult for him to wait on God this past year.

If you are in a season where God has you waiting, I have a few suggestions that may make the wait easier and maybe even a little joyful. Remember what James said ²"Consider it all joy, my brothers *and sisters*, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4)

I attempted to give my friend confidence in the fact that waiting on God's plans sometimes requires a lot of patience and faith. It's in the waiting that our faith is forged in the fires of trials. In the waiting, we discover that God's in charge and we're nothing on our own. It's also true that waiting is hard, but the wait has a purpose. Hannah was a great example of pain in waiting at times.

God is never accidental; Everything he does has a purpose. Quite often the wait is for God is likely to align other pieces of His plan. Sometimes the wait is for God to align the pieces of our own heart to fit that plan. As much as we want to move forward immediately; sometimes God knows that we're just not ready for the plan to be complete. He knows that we have more to learn or more to grow.

4 Ways to Be Patient Waiting On God's Timing

1) Do a lot of praying

The best way to find more patience while you wait is to pray... CONTINUALLY. Before you worry, before you Go to God in prayer first and let prayer be your rock and your guide.

- Continually pray for patience and stamina through the time of waiting.
- Continually pray for God to show you His plan so you submit to Him.
- Continually pray for your heart to be open to the work God's through this time.
- Continually pray for a time of transformation and renewal through your waiting.

We all find that it's not easy to go remain in earnest prayer when you're waiting and frustrated, but as you remain steadfast in Him through prayer, we'll find the waiting becomes much easier.



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

2) Do a lot of reading of Your Bible

Stay in scripture daily, but especially in seasons of waiting on the Lord to reveal His plan. God is preparing you for whatever it is that He is having you wait on. Staying in the scriptures keeps you grounded in God's plans and promises. While you're in that season of waiting, daily reminders of God's faithfulness will keep you heading in the right direction. Reading of times where God reveals His power and plans, as in the case of Esther, will fill you with hope, joy and understanding of how God is at work.

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

3) Allow God to work through the Process

It can take a lot of time to get through the process of change in our lives and hearts. It may take far more time than we expect when God is working a change in your life.

Don't fight against God, instead allow Him to work things out in His time and plans. We must surrender our will to His to gain full understanding of how He is working. Submitting to God's timeline and process can be hard. We live in an instant gratification society. Let go of your attempts to control and plan your way out and allow God to lead.

Entrust your ways to the Lord. trust him, and he will act on your behalf. He will make your righteousness shine like a light, your just cause like the noonday sun. Surrender yourself to the Lord, and wait patiently for him. Do not be preoccupied with an evildoer who succeeds in his way when he carries out his schemes. Let go of anger, and leave rage behind. Do not be preoccupied. It only leads to evil.
(Psalm 37:5-8)

4) Focus on the Blessings

Above all, try to find joy and blessing in your time of waiting and what God is doing in and through you. Instead of focusing on where you're going, look around you and find the blessings that you already have. Even if this season is dark and stormy at times, look hard for the blessings, they are there.

During this time of waiting on the Lord consider where can you be a blessing to others? Who has God placed you near that you can bless? Who can you pray for and encourage?

Even in the midst of the storm, even when you're frustrated... in all things, be full of praise and thanksgivings... even while the waiting gets long.



And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. (Philippians 4:8)