

Holy Waiting // November 19, 2019
Psalm 130.5-6, Isaiah 40.31, James 5.7-8

“I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in His word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.” – Psalm 130:5-6

Is your waiting marked by passivity, or are you actively waiting on God to show up – expectant that He’s going to work within your waiting?

How well we respond to waiting has a lot to do with our perspective on waiting

- If you view waiting as an inconvenience and a waste of time, then you’ll always see it as a burden and insignificant possibly causing you to miss out on what God is doing within it
- If you view waiting as a fruitful, life-giving practice that draws you closer to God while sanctifying your heart, then you’ll be better positioned to see God’s work within it

When you welcome waiting as a kingdom instrument, you don’t simply endure it; you let it prune and shape you. This kind of waiting is a holy-kind-of-waiting.

>> Holy waiting begins with remembering the one we are waiting on

As Jeremiah waited on God to redeem Israel, he remembered God’s faithfulness (Lam. 3.22-25)

>> Holy waiting is built on a foundation of hope

- What you wish for and what you place your hope in are two separate things
- God never promises that our waiting will end by receiving what we want, which means our hope can’t be anchored in the thing we’re waiting for
- Our hope must be anchored in the promises and character of God

>> Holy waiting insists on you being present

- This is more than just mindfulness – It’s trusting that God is still at work creating, redeeming, sanctifying, and revealing.
- It’s learning to ask yourself regularly: *“What might God want to do right here and now within the waiting?”*

>> Holy waiting results in strength

“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” (Isa. 40:31).

>> Holy waiting requires patience

“Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near” (James 5:7-8).

>> Holy waiting sends us out to live missionally

While we wait for Jesus to return, we can prepare ourselves by living the kind of life now that we will live forever when he does return.

>> Holy waiting postures us toward Jesus’ return

- In the waiting, we’re reminded that this isn’t our home (1 Pet 2.11; Heb. 13.14)
- In the waiting, we’re reminded that things still aren’t right (Rev. 21:1-5)