

WAITING HERE FOR YOU

An Advent Journey of Hope

LESSON 3 – WAITING ON GOD AND WITH GOD

*"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 40:1-2 (NIV)*

When you are waiting on God to work in your life, you may feel alone as well as lonely. There is a difference. Feelings of being alone are triggered when you are physically separated from other human beings. Feelings of loneliness, on the other hand, can be triggered even when there are other people around you. Simply put, being alone can be described as a physical state, while being lonely is an emotional state.

According to a few experts, loneliness has reached an epidemic level and is having a devastating impact on physical, mental, and emotional health. Technology, despite its many benefits, is a significant contributor to this problem. Thanks to email, texts, websites, and social media, people no longer have to interact with other humans in person. We can do just about everything virtually—shop, work, date, socialize, study, and visit with doctors. While more convenient and efficient, perhaps something essential is lost. We are made for connection with other people and with God.

Loneliness often increases during the holidays. We feel that something is missing in our connections with others or that our relationships don't "match up" with what we see. But it is at these times we need to remind ourselves that we are never truly alone. *"God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5*

GOD WITH US

1. During seasons of waiting, we must remember that God is still working.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

- A. God always has a purpose and is doing something important in the wait.

Quote ~ *"Remember, when God is executing His plan in our lives, He also designs and arranges events which continue to unfold until His purpose is revealed."* ~ T. B. Joshua

(God took His time and created the world in six days—not just six seconds.)

- B. God always has a dependable plan.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

- C. God always has a different perspective about the situation.

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Jeremiah 33:3

2. God is not in a hurry, and He has higher heights for our lives than we do.

A. Jesus lived on earth for 30 years, waiting, before He started His ministry.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." – Isaiah 55:8-9

B. Our chief aim is often "how do I feel?" and "how do I get what I want?"

The Westminster Catechism states: *"What is the chief end of man?" Answer: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever."*

3. The parallel of the Israelites' crossing the Red Sea reveals how God works while we wait.

A. The people had been released after 400 years in Egypt.

"When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." ¹⁸ So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle." Exodus 13:17-18

B. Moses and the people took the bones of Joseph with them because of his oath. Joseph had faith that God would bring him back to the promised land.