

When Faith Isn't Fun: The Hard Gift of Waiting

Romans 8:18–25

Everyone gets to grow while waiting: Either in your hope in God or the pain of attempted control.

Romans 8:18–25 (CSB)

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility—not willingly, but because of him who subjected it—in the hope 21 that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage to decay into the glorious freedom of God's children. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. 23 Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24 Now in this hope we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? 25 Now if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience.

1. Waiting Is the Reality of Life in a Broken World

- Vs18–22

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- We wait because:

The world is not yet restored / justice is not yet complete / our bodies are not yet redeemed

2. Waiting Creates an Inner Tension in Believers

VS 23 Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

And this is because Christians live in the ****already / not yet****. We already have:

- the Spirit as our first fruit / down payment of God's eternal presence
- adoption
- salvation

But we are still waiting for:

- The redemption of our bodies
- the full restoration of creation

Philippians 1:21–24 (CSB)

21 For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me; and I don't know which one I should choose. 23 I am torn between the two. I long to depart and be with Christ—which is far better—24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

3. Waiting Forces a Choice: Hope or Control

VS 24–25 Now in this hope we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? 25 Now if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience.

Hope says:

- God is still
- God keeps His promises.

And this Hope produces: endurance, trust, and patience.

Control looks like:

- * anxiety
- * manipulation
- * forcing outcomes
- * impatience with God's timing

Everyone is waiting for something:

- * healing * direction * restoration * justice * Christ's return

The real question is not whether you are waiting. The real question is:

- Is your waiting producing hope... or control?

****The glory coming is worth the wait.****