

# TRUSTING GOD'S TIMING IN YOUR LIFE

Patrick Gitto | DECEMBER 9-10, 2023

Week 2: Fret Not (When Waiting Turns To Worry)

When the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.  
Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT)

## How To Use Your Waiting

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.

Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly.

But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.  
Luke 1:5-7 (NIV)

Use your waiting to be \_\_\_\_\_

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.  
Luke 1:8-11 (NIV)

Use your waiting to \_\_\_\_\_

When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John."  
Luke 1:12-13 (NIV)

Use your waiting to \_\_\_\_\_

He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to

take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.

He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.  
Luke 1:14-17 (NIV)

Use your waiting for \_\_\_\_\_

That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." "The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

Luke 1:18-22 (NIV)

Use your waiting to \_\_\_\_\_

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."  
Luke 1:23-25 (NIV)

It \_\_\_\_\_ than this!

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Use your waiting to be FAITHFUL

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Use your waiting to WORSHIP

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Use your waiting to PRAY

He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.

He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.  
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Use your waiting for EXPECTATION

That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."

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Use your waiting to TRUST

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."  
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It DOES GET BETTER than this!



## FRET NOT (WHEN WAITING TURNS TO WORRY)

Talk-it-Over Notes | December 9-10, 2023

### REVIEW IT

God's plans require set-up, and we often have to wait on His timing for things to happen. While waiting can be uncomfortable or even lengthy, it is a gift to be used. Instead of spending their time in worry and inaction, Zechariah and Elizabeth, used their waiting. We can follow their example and use our waiting to be faithful, to worship, to pray, for expectation and to trust.

Zechariah actively participated in worship at the temple, alongside others, through prayer and serving. Even temporary muting couldn't keep him from sharing the Good News in excited expectation. Elizabeth modeled trust even in the early months of her baby's development.

God, not Zechariah or Elizabeth, is the hero of this story. We can trust God's timing in our life. We can trust God's promises — a promise that gives us hope in the waiting: It does get better than this.

*That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."*

*1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)*

**Spend some time in the Word: Read Jeremiah 17.**

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. How does it feel to hear that God has no expectation for us to be perfect in our faithfulness? What might change in your approach to being faithful in waiting seasons and beyond?
2. Zechariah used his waiting. He did not sit around and wait passively, but instead kept faithfully active in his worship, prayer, expectation, and trust. How are you using your waiting? What in Zechariah's and Elizabeth's story is inspiring you to use your waiting differently?
3. The angel told Zechariah that his son would 'make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Rock Brook Church seeks to do the same. How can you partner with your church family to prepare yourself for Jesus' second coming? Who can you bring along with you?
4. It does get better than this. Describe the hope that this promise gives you. How can you be intentional in sharing this hope with others around you?

### ACT ON IT

Rock Brook has a number of ways to help you live out your faithfulness in response to God's faithfulness: weekend worship services, 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, small groups, Growth Track, Dream Team. Whether you are in a season of waiting or have recently exited that season, there are many opportunities to stay active. This is a great time for personal set-up so that you can fully participate. What are your plans?

### PRAY ABOUT IT

Thank God for His planning, even if you don't understand it, or it doesn't match your plans in the moment. Ask God to help you trust Him. Send God your worries through prayer, rather than keeping them to yourself.