

## Psalm 13:1–6

**MPS: As you wait on the Lord, be expectant He will breakthrough**

Who likes to wait?

- I've never seen that in anyone's bio or SM profile. "Husband, Wife, Dad, Mom, avid reader, outdoorsman, hunting, hiking, yoga... WAITING!"
- We have lost our aptitude for waiting in the world we live.
- Red lights, lines at amusement parks, restaurants, amazon prime, sermons that last too long, Downloading video games (EA sports college football 25) – instantaneous but we throw a fit when the internet isn't working
- The faster and more connected our world becomes, the less we endure waiting
- But what about waiting on God?
- There are 116 references of waiting on God in the bible.
- If we are not good at waiting in lines and red lights, we won't be good at waiting on God
- Smaller – waiting on direction on this side thing – maybe more urgent, waiting to get pregnant, more urgent, waiting on test results, waiting for breakthroughs...
- Maybe you're at a standstill, need rescue, need an answer, 'it's beyond my ability to fix this, God if you don't come through, with a breakthrough, I'm through. I need you to breakthrough or I'm through, save me. It's the Hell in the Hallway.'
- What does it mean to wait on God - Ray Ortlund says waiting on God is not like sitting in your recliner looking at your watch – its more like waiting for time to stop planking!

**VS 1-2** *How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? 2 How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?*

- One thing this Psalm exudes in this text is that he is expectant for the Lord to breakthrough while he waits.
- There is a difference in asking how long and how long or how dare you?
- Asking "how long?" assumes that the Lord will do what he promised.

**Psalm 9:12 (ESV) 12** *For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.*

**Psalm 11:7 (ESV) 7** *For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.*

**Psalm 12:5 (ESV) 5** *“Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the LORD; “I will place him in the safety for which he longs.”*

**Numbers 6:24–26 (ESV) 24** *The LORD bless you and keep you; **25** the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; **26** the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

- David’s questions, then, seem designed to motivate the Lord to do what he knows the Lord wants to do.
- Yahweh’s own reputation is at stake in the lives of his people, so the psalmist knows that Yahweh cares about the very concerns he raises.
- But still, Lord, HOW LONG?
- The big idea for today’s message is:

### **As you wait on the Lord, be expectant He will breakthrough**

- While you are waiting with expectancy:

#### **1. Be honest with God and honest with yourself**

**VS 1-2** *How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? **2** How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?*

##### a. Honesty with God

- This is a Psalm of lament, and the first thing we do when lamenting is get raw with God.
- lament stands in the gap between pain and promise.
- Complain about God - it is a sin; complain to God – it is a Psalm
- What if this ‘hell in the hallway’ is self-induced? What if it is me who has caused God’s presence to seem far?

##### b. Honesty with self

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Ask yourself: “Is the reason I’m in such a need because of my actions? Is all of this self-

induced?” “Did I do or not do something that has me in a place that if God doesn’t breakthrough, I am through?”

- Example: Paul warns the sailors not to put the ship to sail in Acts 27 – they lost all the cargo AND the ship – this was a self-induced storm. Sometimes we do the same.

**Hebrews 12:1 (ESV) 1** *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

- “Aging is the aggressive pursuit of comfort” -Gary Brecka
- “Sitting is the new smoking” a sedentary lifestyle is a health hazard
- What are some sinful or foolish decisions that tend to put you in a place where you will need to wait longer for what you need / want from God?
- Perhaps you need to confess your sin to God, turn your gaze upon Jesus and wait for him to set your feet running again.
- Perhaps it’s not sin, but you are entangled with weight that is causing you to trip, stumble and even be in a place that if God doesn’t breakthrough you are through.
- While you expectantly wait for God to rescue, take this time to pray and consider what sins or entanglements are keep you from running the race.

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**2. Be aware you have an enemy who wants to shake your expectation**

**Vs 3-4** *Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, 4 lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed over him,” lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.*

David prayer for God to do three things for him:

- a. Take note
  - b. Answer him
  - c. Light up his eyes
- Why? So that the enemy won’t shake him or prevail over him when his is in the hell in the hallway – in the waiting.

We are most vulnerable to the devil’s attacks in 4 ways:

- a. Fear

- b. Frustration
- c. Fatigue
- d. Failures

- What lies is the enemy whispering to you in your vulnerability?

- He wants to shake you, he wants to prevail over you, BUT

**1 John 4:4 (ESV) 4** *Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

- How does David prevail over the one who wants to prevail over him? He believes truth, He prays

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– and then he trusts... leading to number 3

### **3. Be resolved to trust God as you wait in expectation**

**Vs 5-6** *But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. 6 I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.*

He has dealt bountifully with us – we deserve hell, but he has given us heaven.

- When you realize and remember what he saved you from, your heart rejoices.
- When you realize that the best is yet to come your heart rejoices.
- When you realize this life is not all there is and our Lord is coming back to save us, your heart rejoices.
- Rejoicing hearts sing to the Lord!
- What do you do while you wait for Him in expectation? You sing to the Lord while waiting for the breakthrough.

**Acts 16:25–26 (ESV) 25** *About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, 26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.*

- To help you wait with expectation for the Lord to suddenly breakthrough, listen to this truth:

**Psalms 63:3 (ESV) 3** *Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.*

- His love is better than this life – wow. When you remember you never have to wait on His love it will make it easier waiting in this life.

## CONCLUSION:

- The ultimate waiting on the Lord is to wait with expectation of His return

**2 Timothy 4:8 (ESV) 8** *Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.*

**Hebrews 9:28 (ESV) 28** *so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*

**Isaiah 40:31 (ESV) 31** *but they 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.*

**Psalms 37:37 (ESV) 37** *Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace.*

- God is concerned for the future you

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## QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS:

1. What are you waiting on the Lord for?
2. What promises from His Word give you expectation He will breakthrough?
3. What do you do in the meantime as you wait in expectation?