



OPENING PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Share a real-life situation where someone had to wait for God's timing.

Why is waiting so difficult for us?

What are some common occasions where we are often stuck waiting?

WHY WAIT?

1.) What good can God work out of our waiting?

Psalm 130:5-6 I wait for the LORD, my soul 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 123:2 As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he shows us his mercy.

Psalm 33:20-22 We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

Romans 8:24-25 Hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

WAITERS

Psalm 6:3-4,6 My soul is in anguish. How long, O LORD, how long? Turn, O LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love. I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears.

1.) What lessons (positive and negative) can we learn from the example of these?

Abraham and Sarah

- **Genesis 12:2,4** “I will make you into a great nation...” So Abram left, as the LORD had told him... Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran.
- **Genesis 15:4-6** Then the word of the LORD came to him: “...A son coming from your own body will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.
- **Genesis 16:16** Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.
- **Genesis 18:10** Then the LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”
- **Genesis 21:5** Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

The Israelites in Egypt

Genesis 15:13-14 “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.”

Exodus 2:23-25; 3:7-8 The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them. [...] The LORD said [to Moses], “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.”

King David

- The youngest of his brothers, anointed by Samuel (1 Samuel 16)
- Had two opportunities to strike Saul down but refuses to take them (1 Samuel 24 and 26)
- Saul and his sons die in battle
- Seven years of civil war

PASSING THE TIME - REMAINING RESILIENT WHILE YOU WAIT

Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Lamentations 3:22-26 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

a.)

1 Samuel 1:2,6-7,10-11,19-20 [Elkanah] had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. ...⁶ And because the LORD had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. ⁷This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. ...¹⁰ In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. ¹¹And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life..." ...the LORD remembered her. ²⁰So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him."

Jude 20-21 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

b.)

Isaiah 40:27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

James 4:2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

c.)

Philippians 1:12-14 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. ¹³As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

d.)

Romans 8:22-24 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved.

e.)

NEXT TIME: Resilient In Death of Loved Ones