

Intro: About 3 or 4 years ago Darlene had to have some minor surgery. Biopsy...Dr said it was "probably nothing" but check So scheduled surgery, Darlene went back, I went to get food...Cafeteria...Came back up...waited for like 2 hours...1 hr Finally went to ask...Oh, she was out while you were away...Dr has already started another procedure...wait to see both! Tried to call you...but...didn't someone tell you pagers don't work down in cafeteria... Sat and waited for like another hour...just about the time I was ready to make a scene...

WAITING...for news like that...Good or Bad...Life changing news...is awful!

How Do You Wait On God?

Psalm 40 Page 400

This Psalm is written by David...as a testimony of the faithfulness of God as David had to wait. God had spoken... David, you will be king...but before it ever happened David found himself running for his life, hiding with enemies, living in the desert as he was waiting for God to fulfill His promises. Somewhere in that timeframe...David the poet/songwriter
3 Things To Do While You Wait on God

As you wait:

1. Remember and Recount God's Faithfulness To You In The Past.

Vs 1-5

In order to build his own faith and remind himself of God's work and faithfulness to him, David starts with a testimony to himself! He begins by remembering what God has done in previous times to rescue him, and protect him, and provide. You see, David knows...it is EASY to forget! We sometimes fall into the "What have you done for me lately?" Mentality Even with God we act and think like He has to "step up" for us...and we ignore all the times in the past he has been faithful

- He listened to me: Lit = *to bend over and pay attention to:*
Illus Beautiful picture: Parent w/child: Teacher intern
He is not far off and removed...He is close enough to hear, loving enough to care
- He heard my cry: Lit = *to hear intelligently (understand) attentively; discerningly;*
Illus: (He GETS it!) Knows heart NOT like Charlie Brown...Listening to teacher, not really
- He lifted me out of trouble: He personally reached down and lifted me up out of trouble:
Mire, mud, Pit: Poetic language for an awful place David could not get out of alone
I was in a place where I was STUCK: I couldn't help myself...so He helped me!
God cared enough to get involved...He did what I could not do!
- He gave me a NEW song!: Lit = He put a song of praise in my mouth:
Illus: Not only did God change my circumstances...He changed my attitude!
It's possible to be out of the pit...and STILL STUCK! NOT DAVID
Everything has changed! God changed my circumstances...and He changed me!

As David processes this idea of waiting on God...He begins by building his faith up and remembers God's faithfulness You see, when we remember how God has been faithful in the past, It encourages us, strengthens us, reminds us You have done it before God...I know I can count on your faithfulness in the future!

Illus: Memory Stones: My office is FULL of memory stones: Piece of paper almost 30 yrs old: First Fund raiser; Card from the hotel I was staying in Cuba when I went hospital; letter "expert" Don't move! Over and over and over again God has been faithful...Every time I need them...look...REMEMBER

As you wait:

2. Continue To Honor Him In The Present.

Vs 6-10

God's faithfulness and our response is NOT just about what happened in the PAST! (Some Christians...I remember when...) What about NOW! What has God done this week, this month...TODAY? What is He doing even as we speak! Because He has been...and Is being faithful..I should be as well. So, While I wait there are some things We should do!

- Don't Just Go through motions: Don't desire sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings, sin offerings in rote ways
1Sam 15:22 To obey is better than sacrifice
Isaiah 1:10-18 Stop trampling around my temple offering meaningless sacrifices
Hos 6:6 I desire mercy not sacrifice, knowledge of me, not offerings!
VS 7: Your law is within my heart..not just going thru motions!
- Give Him Honest and sincere devotion: *"My ears pierced"*
Ex 21:2 ff (Serve 6; I don't want to go! Doorpost)
God wants YOU...YOUR HEART...Not your offerings, sacrifices, service
If he has YOU...He has all the rest!
Otherwise...wasting your time...and His...not "earning any grace!"
- Testify To His Faithfulness: While you are waiting...speak in FAITH of what God has, IS, and will do!
Vs 9: Proclaim your righteousness: *Preach a sermon!*
Don't seal my lips: *Not held back a single thing!*
Vs 10: Not hide or conceal: *Not cover it up, or Delete, cut it out*
Vs 10: Speak of your faithfulness *Boast; announce;*

Applic: David says, I honor God in the present by giving Him true devotion and declaring His faithfulness to everyone!
I am guilty so often of failing to do this! Instead of recouping His faithfulness and Speaking of His greatness
I find myself focused on the problem...the trials...the troubles.

Instead of remembering His faithfulness...and Visioning what He will do for me
I imagine what it will be like if He DOESN'T come through...and try to create in my mind..."Plan B"
Listen..Plan B thinking doesn't honor God.
Instead of planning for If He DOES NOT to show up...Make plans for what you will do WHEN He does!

So, As You Wait:

3. Trust Him For The Future!

Vs 11-17

While we are waiting we remember His Past Faithfulness, We Continue to Honor Him in the Present, and we Trust for Future
You see, David understands something here that we need to get a grip on.

Even when God has and Does move on our behalf...We never get to the place where we don't need Him anymore!

You know how it works right? As soon as you solve one problem...what happens...Another one is right in line behind it!

So, how do we trust Him for the Future?

- We Don't let our guard down! Lit = VS 11 *Don't hold back your mercy,
Don't hold back your truth in my life
Don't hide your love*

- We trust him to protect us: Vs 11 Lit = *to stand guard; to observe in order to protect; to watch over*
God, I know that trouble is coming..will you continue to stand Guard over my life!
Illus: Jesus asked that of His disciples in Garden: They Let Him Down
God NEVER lets us down, NEVER takes his eyes off us, NEVER falls asleep!

- We Don't allow new problems to move our focus and faith:
Vs 12: Innumerable Troubles Surround Me: *So many I cant count: Surround me
So many that's all I can see: So many I cant see: Grabbed and blinded me*

- Recognize our ongoing need: Vs 17 I am poor and needy
Poor: Lit = depressed, humbled, afflicted,
Needy: Lit = spiritual beggar: I can't do a single thing for myself, but God you can!

CONCL: Waiting for God is never Easy.

In fact it is one of the most difficult things we have to learn to do as a follower of Jesus

Actually, it is part of the "bootcamp" of the spiritual life: It is one of the fundamental "skills" we need to survive!

And, until we learn how to WAIT correctly, God continues to put us in situations where we have to grow into it

In addition...most of us have to have a refresher course every couple of years.

We "leak" what we know...so that given enough time...it all leaks out and we have to learn it all over again!

3 Things WE do:

- Remember the Past
- Honor Him in Present
- Trust Him for future

Hold onto the Promise!

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

If you are waiting today...let me encourage you to wait...as David taught us to wait

Come Pray: God Remind Me of your Faithfulness
Help me today to testify to your faithfulness
Give me faith for the future