“The process of hopeful waiting”

Summary: We are in a series called “inbreaking at Christmas” it’s the story regarding Advent.

Advent – 1The arrival, 2appearance, 3emergence of a notable person, thing or event.

Inbreaking- A breaking in, an inroad, invasion, or incursion. We see the breaking in of Jesus after 400 yr of silence. Something supernatural into something natural.

Advent tends to bring up subjects like Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. As a matter of fact part of the tradition is the lighting of candles around a wreath. At one point is was the common to light 24 candles representing the 24 days leading up till Christmas. Then the tradition changed a bit for some to the lighting of 4 candles (rep. hope, peace, love, joy).

Introduction: Title – “The process of hopeful waiting”

Can you recall the waiting? Did you ever have this incredible anticipation leading up to Christmas? I did… so hard to sleep.

I also recall another time of waiting. A time when Maggie was close to delivery and Dr Eugie told us she was breach and he needed to perform a C-section. We were so vulnerable, young and scared. I was able to stay with Brenda and witnessed everything. At one point the team was jostling Brenda and she asked , “Whats going on”? “What do you want to know”? “Have they cut me”? “Yes”! “Well, what do you see”? “You look as pretty on the inside as you do the outside”!

What keeps us protected emotionally and mentally through the hopeful waiting is, our ability to focus on the beauty of what the Father has promised instead of the pain and fear of delivery. “Make no mistake the process of hopeful waiting is a fight”

Anything supernaturally promised to us in this life is miraculous (something we wait for) , will never be actualized without a fight and the “practice of hopeful waiting” (we are so prone to measure things by what we see)

Luke 1: 39-45 - 39Now [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=lk%201%3A39-45&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24933a)]at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, 40and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42And she cried out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43And [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=lk%201%3A39-45&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24937b)]how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? 44For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. 45And blessed is she who [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=lk%201%3A39-45&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24939c)]believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=lk%201%3A39-45&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24939d)]by the Lord.”

(birth narrative- the story from our recent time in Luke. This was the fulfilment of a long-awaited promise of both messenger and messiah.)

This is nothing less than miraculous – zach goes mute, elderly and barren Elizabeth conceives, young virgin Mary conceives.

* When the purposes of God break-in it always breaks in through what would be impossible to you and I
* Miracles are what God does – and impossible is where God starts.
* We often struggle because of our tendency to measure by what we see

What does the process of waiting look like?

What does hopeful waiting produce in you?

Is 40:31 "Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary."

* This verse emphasizes that waiting on God provides renewal, strength, and endurance.

Ps 27:14 "Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord."

* Encouragement to remain courageous and steadfast while trusting in God's timing.

Lam 3:25 "The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him. It is good that he waits silently for the salvation of the Lord."

* Highlights the goodness of God toward those who wait and seek Him, encouraging patience and quiet trust.

Ps 130:5-6 "I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than the watchmen for the morning; indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning."

* Reflects deep hope and anticipation for God’s intervention, much like the certainty of dawn.

Micah 7:7 But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me."

A statement of confident expectation and assurance that God will respond.

How can you and I become better equipped in the process of hopeful waiting?

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Here's an acronym for the five steps: "APEX" (like the peak of a mountain, symbolizing growth and maturity through waiting) with an added "C" for celebrating faith. The acronym "APEX-C" can represent the pinnacle of spiritual readiness while waiting on the Lord:

* A: Anchor Yourself in God’s Promises
* P: Pray for Strength and Patience
* E: Embrace the Process
* X: eXpect Encouragement (Stay connected to a community of believers)
* C: Celebrate Small Steps of Faith

Each letter ties to a foundational step, emphasizing that waiting helps us reach the "apex" of faith maturity while trusting in God's timing.