

“Waiting isn’t easy”

George Zemek

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Ironically in these days of urgings and mandates to “Stay Home” people who just a few weeks ago detested traffic jams, long lines, etc. are now impatient due to new circumstances. They can’t wait for the sequestering to cease so that they could return to “normalcy.” Indeed our recent, accelerating cultural influences allow no room for patiently waiting for anything.

However, for genuine believers waiting is one of God’s primary ways for the building of Christian character. Waiting, especially throughout the course of a trial, is a tool that the Lord uses to produce in us a brave endurance that starts a spiritually productive chain reaction culminating in hope. Remember Romans 5:1-5 (CSB):

5 Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace^[a] with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** We have also obtained access through him by faith^[b] into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice^[c] in the hope of the glory of God. **3** And not only that, but we also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, **4** endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. **5** This hope will not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

If we, emotionally charged, desire the Lord to end our waiting we rebel against the truth of familiar passages like James 1:2-4 (NAS):

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various ^[a]trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces ^[b]endurance. **4** And let ^[c]endurance have *its* perfect ^[d]result, so that you may be ^[e]perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Waiting indeed isn’t easy especially during these trials of life, but it is spiritually necessary. Let me just list several OT passages that bear out this theological truth:

Job 14:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ “If a man dies, will he live *again*?
All the days of my struggle I will wait
Until my change comes.
¹⁵ “You will call, and I will answer You;
You will long for the work of Your hands.

Psalms 25:3, 5, 21 (NASB)

³ Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed;
^[a] Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.
⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
For You are the God of my salvation;
For You I wait all the day.

²¹ Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
For I wait for You.

Psalm 27:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;
Be strong and let your heart take courage;
Yes, wait for the LORD.

Psalm 37:7, 34 (NASB)

⁷ ^[b] Rest in the LORD and wait ^[c] patiently for Him;
Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,
Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.
³⁴ Wait for the LORD and keep His way,
And He will exalt you to inherit the land;
When the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

Psalm 62:5 (NASB)

⁵ My soul, wait in silence for God only,
For my hope is from Him.

Psalm 130:5 (NASB)

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait,
And ^[a] in His word do I hope

Isaiah 40:31 (NASB)

³¹ Yet those who ^[a] wait for the LORD
Will gain new strength;
They will ^[b] mount up *with* ^[c] wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.

Isaiah 51:5 (NASB)

⁵ “My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth,
And My arms will judge the peoples;
The coastlands will wait for Me,
And for My arm they will wait expectantly.

Waiting upon God in the NT is not just focused upon the trials of the present as it is looking forward to triumph through endurance and our ultimate destination of being with Christ. Remember the respective testimonies of Romans 8:18-21, Philippians 3:20-21, and 1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NAS):

Romans 8: 15-21 (NASB)

¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery ^[a] leading to fear again, but you have received ^[b] a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies

with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, ^[c] in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Philippians 3:20-21 (NASB)

²⁰ For our ^[a] citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform ^[b] the body of our humble state into conformity with ^[c] the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from ^[a] heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

So as we wait for the glorification stage of our salvation including the resurrection of our bodies we know that the reaching of that goal is guaranteed by God in His Word. And as we celebrate this season of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, although physically spread out because of social distancing, we're still spiritually One Body in Him. Furthermore, He who is our Head is "the resurrection and the life." So just meditate on this: our physical resurrection indeed is future but we have been blessed with eternal life already. Therefore, that sublime reality calls for our unceasing praise no matter what the circumstances.