



February 12, 2017

Psalm 27

"The Discipline of Waiting"

Pastor Gary Hamrick

Have you ever been impatient about something because it wasn't happening fast enough or working quickly enough? Have you ever felt this way toward God, because he wasn't making something happen soon enough for you? For most of us, patience is not a virtue we possess, and it doesn't help that we live in a very fast-paced world where technology makes everything lightning fast! Nevertheless, in Psalm 27 David tells us to take courage and wait for the Lord. God doesn't work on our timetable, and it's usually the case that he is much slower about making things happen than what we would prefer. God is not slow or fast. God is always right on time! In today's study, Pastor Gary encourages us to practice the discipline of waiting - learning how to trust God and lean on him when life seems to be "on pause."

The Discipline Of Waiting

1. According to a 2013 article in *The Boston Globe*, a computer science professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, "examined the viewing habits of 6.7 million [Internet] users" to determine how long people would be willing to wait for a video to load, and the surprising answer was two seconds! ¹
 - a. After just five seconds, 25% of 6.7 million people abandoned the download!
 - b. After just ten seconds, 50% of the 6.7 million people abandoned the download!
2. Pastor Gary shared the results of a study McDonald's conducted regarding how long people in south Florida wanted to wait from the time they gave their drive-thru order until the time they completed the payment (actual time was 189.5

¹ <https://www.bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/style/2013/02/01/the-growing-culture-impatience-where-instant-gratification-makes-crave-more-instant-gratification/q8tWDNGeJB2mm45fQxtTQP/story.html>

seconds), and they found out that people were only willing to wait 60 seconds, which became a nation-wide mandate!

3. The fast and furious pace of many things today distorts our perspective on God's timing, and the result is that we have lost the discipline of waiting, especially when it concerns how we relate to God.
4. The idea of waiting on the Lord is found throughout the pages of the Bible, and the book of psalms includes many references, including the following:
 - a. [Psalm 27:14](#) - *"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."*
 - b. [Psalm 33:20](#) - *"We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield."*
 - c. [Psalm 37:7](#) - *"Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him..."*
 - d. [Psalm 37:34](#) - *"Wait for the LORD and keep his way..."*
 - e. [Psalm 38:15](#) - *"I wait for you, O LORD; you will answer, O Lord my God."*
 - f. [Psalm 40:1](#) - *"I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry."*
 - g. [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."*
5. There aren't any verses in the Bible that tell us to hurry!
6. A careful reading of this psalm indicates that David seems to be in some kind of trouble or distress, and he wrote with a fearful and anxious heart.
7. David also wrote about his confidence in the Lord in times of trouble.
 - a. [Psalm 27:1](#) - *"The LORD is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?"*
 - b. [Psalm 27:5](#) - *"For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling... and set me high upon a rock."*
8. [Psalm 27:5-6](#) was written in future tense, which helps us understand David's plan concerning what he needed to do while he was waiting on God.

Waiting Is Doing

9. One of David's game plan checklist items included going to church!
 - a. [Psalm 27:6](#) - *"... at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD."*

10. Pastor Gary said: “David [didn’t] just sit back and expect that God [was] going to deal with whatever his situation [was], he actually [did] something... [He was saying,] ‘I’m going to worship the one on whom I’m waiting for my needs to be met...’ Don’t just sit at home and think that God is going to drop the answer in your lap... Please do not wait to worship God [until] after he has answered your prayers; worship God while you wait, and honor him in the waiting by acknowledging him as being good and faithful and loving in all of his ways, even though [you don’t have all of the answers yet].”
11. “Waiting for God is not laziness. Waiting for God is not going to sleep. Waiting for God is not the abandonment of effort. Waiting for God means, first, activity under command; second, readiness for any new command that may come; third, the ability to do nothing until the command is given.” – G. Campbell Morgan ²

Waiting Is Praying

12. David prayed and asked for God’s mercy.
13. David prayed and asked God not to reject him.
14. **Psalm 27:7-10** – *“Hear my voice when I call, O LORD: be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you, ‘Seek his face!’ Your face, LORD, I will seek. Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior. Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.”*
15. Pastor Gary said: “If you’ve ever waited on the Lord for something, sometimes his silence can be interpreted as rejection. When you don’t receive the answer or the response or the reply that you want from God quickly enough, you can sometimes misinterpret the silence in the waiting, that God has forsaken you.”
16. David processed all of the things he was going through, including some form of rejection by his mother and father, and he came to the conclusion that God would not reject him or forsake him.
17. Pastor Gary said: “I just want to say that if any of you are in a long period of waiting, and the longer you wait the more excruciating [things] can be, and you’re wondering, why doesn’t God answer my prayer, and why doesn’t God do this for me and do that for me? In that silence, please don’t think that God is

² <http://www.biblebaptistelmont.org/BBC/library/Morgan/secret.html>

rejecting you, because the Lord will receive you... His silence should not be misinterpreted as the absence of his love or his care. He is not rejecting you. He is not forsaking you. His timing is just perfect, and it doesn't correspond necessarily to our timetable."

18. **Psalm 27:8** - *"My heart says of you, 'Seek his face!' Your face, LORD, I will seek."*
19. It's interesting to note that David sought the face of God, not the hand of God.
20. Pastor Gary said: "God is our provider, but we have to resist the temptation to always go to God about what we [want]. David went to God about who he is. David [came to realize that he wanted to seek the face of God because he wanted to know him]. It's more about knowing [God] than getting from [God]... In knowing God, that's when he will satisfy [the] deepest longings of [our] heart. That's when he will bear witness to [our souls] about just waiting and trusting him."
21. We must be tuned in to God while we wait!

Waiting Is Learning

22. **Psalm 27:11** - *"Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a straight path..."*
23. David realized that lessons needed to be learned while things were on pause.
24. Pastor Gary said: "All of us in a period of waiting need to ask ourselves: 'What is God trying to teach me while I wait... How is God growing me in ways I otherwise probably would not have grown had God [done] what I wanted, when I wanted it?' "
25. Pastor Gary said: "I don't believe God is going to answer our requests, even if it is according to his will, unless we first learn what he wants us learn while we wait. [God] wants to prepare us, and if we are not learning the lessons while we wait, then we will not be ready to receive what we want..."

Waiting Is Trusting (God And His Timing)

26. **Psalm 27:13** - *"I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."*

27. David was confident that he would see the goodness of the Lord while he was living, even though he didn't know when or how or what method.
28. The Bible tells the stories of many men and women who waited on the Lord's timing.
 - a. Moses waited 40 years before it was the right time to lead the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt.
 - b. Jacob waited 14 years for Rachel to be his wife.
 - c. David waited 15 years from the time he was anointed to be the new king of Judah, until he actually assumed the throne after King Saul died, and it was another seven years before he became king over the entire nation of Israel.
 - d. Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years before Isaac was born.
 - e. Joseph, who was wrongly accused and wrongly imprisoned, waited 13 years in jail until he was freed and God made him the Prime Minister of Egypt.
 - f. Jesus waited 30 years from the time he was born until he began his public ministry.
29. If God is making you wait, then you're in good company!
30. Jesus, upon hearing that his close friend, Lazarus, was sick and near death, waited until four days after his death to arrive at the home of Mary and Martha, Lazarus's sisters!
31. The question about the account of Lazarus's death that we need to ask ourselves is this: What is the bigger miracle, Jesus healing a sick friend, or Jesus raising a dead friend to life?
32. The reason Jesus waited four days was so that more glory would come to our heavenly Father!
33. Pastor Gary said: "If you and I are consumed with God meeting our expectations, why should he be obligated to exceed them? In other words, perhaps God wants to do even more than what we are asking, and he's waiting because he has something even better in mind for you. Don't settle for less. In your impatience don't be hasty for something that is second best. You wait on the Lord, because what you expect he might want to exceed, but only in his timing will he bring those things to pass."
34. [Isaiah 40:30-31](#) - *"Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on 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.” (NKJV)

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Psalm 27](#) to provide the foundation for this study.
3. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about waiting for goods and services.
4. Read and discuss the article from *The Boston Globe* and the McDonald’s surveys Pastor Gary shared in his message. (See #1 and #2 above)
5. Why does waiting create such high levels of stress, anger, anxiety, etc.?
6. Read and discuss the Scriptures Pastor Gary shared concerning waiting on the Lord. (See #4 above)
7. What does having confidence in the Lord look like when you experience difficult times?
8. How do you practice “waiting is doing”?
9. Read and discuss the G. Campbell Morgan quote Pastor Gary shared. (See #11 above)
10. Read and discuss [Psalm 27:7-10](#).
11. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary’s remarks about God’s silence. (See #15 and #17 above)
12. Share specific examples of the lessons you’ve learned while waiting on the Lord.
13. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s comments about our expectations. (See #33 above)
14. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).