

The Glory of Intimacy with God in the Waiting – Psalm 65:4

⁴ *Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You,
That he may dwell in Your courts.
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple. (Psalm 65:4)*

I. GOD IS VERY PRESENT IN THE SEASONS OF WAITING

¹ *God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1)*

A. God is with us...He is Emmanuel. His eyes are ever upon us and His ears are ever attentive to the sounds of our voices. There is never a moment where He is too busy to respond to us. There is never a time where He needs to get to us in another five minutes. He doesn't grow tired or weary of us. He doesn't get annoyed with our imperfections and go in search of others who have more to offer. The God of the universe who is tending to the stars across a billion galaxies always has time to draw near to us and care deeply about every detail of our life. He is present...VERY present at all times. (*Psalm 34:4, Psalm 121:4, Isaiah 40:28, Matthew 1:23*)

B. One of the greatest temptations that we face in a season of waiting is believing the lie that God is distant or out of reach. Every person has been given an inherent desire to be seen and to be heard. When we don't see the fulfillment of a promise that we are waiting on in our preferential timing, we start to wonder if God is paying attention. We must never believe that in a time of waiting that God is either inactive or indifferent towards our needs or desires.

C. The voice of accusation that tells us that God is distant comes from many different sources:

1. The enemy

¹⁰ *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.
(Revelation 12:10)*

¹⁰ *So he crouches, he lies low, That the helpless may fall by his strength.*

¹¹ *He has said in his heart, "God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see."
(Psalm 10:10-11)*

a. The voice of the enemy is so convincing because he himself believes in his heart that God has the ability to forget. He Himself believes that there are things and people that the Lord does not see. He preys on the ones who are helpless and unable to take care of themselves, who ironically are the very ones that the Lord desires to draw near to.

b. The enemy wants us to yield to the internal suggestion that we should just give up on all the things that we are waiting on. He wants to convince us that our singular and wholehearted pursuit of the Lord has been in vain. He purposes himself to persuade us that our testimony of faith to wait and desire to walk in holiness has been insignificant while the rest of the world is satisfied in their own accomplishments and achievements.

2. Different people around us who either lack faith or have no faith at all

*⁶ There are many who say, “Who will show us any good?”
Lord, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us. (Psalm 4:6)*

3. Our own hearts complaints of being “a victim”

*¹ As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.
² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?
³ My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me,
“Where is your God?” (Psalm 42:1-3)*

- D. Victims are unable to be blessed! They are too busy complaining to be thankful. They are too busy blaming someone else for their sinful actions and emotions to praise the Lord. And they are too busy focusing on themselves and living out the identity of a “victim” RATHER THAN focusing on the Lord who calls us to walk out our identity as “victors.” And if you are focused on yourself, it is impossible to enter into the presence of the Lord because you so through thanksgiving and praise.

*⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. (Psalm 100:4)*

- E. Victims say, “Where is your God?” with the accusation that He is distant. Victors say, “When will I appear before God?” with the expectation that He is near!

II. THERE IS A BLESSEDNESS IN DRAWING NEAR TO THE LORD IN THE WAITING

⁴ Blessed is the man You choose... (Psalm 65:4a)

- A. We live in an age where the blessedness of God cannot always necessarily be measured by our current circumstances. Those who are living in great wealth or perfect health should not be considered blessed by the Lord while those who are living in poverty or sickness should not be considered NOT blessed by the Lord. And while there are times that the blessing of God is seen in temporal circumstances...the eternal, tangible blessing of God will only be seen at the end of the age when Jesus returns for those who understood that true blessing is simply being chosen and loved by God.
- B. The world is going to continue to define “blessed” in terms of financial success, having the respect and honor of men, making a name for yourself through visible accomplishments and achievements, and many other ways that depend on your own strength. But the true blessedness of God comes from confessing our complete dependence on Him.
- C. The Lord makes abundantly clear throughout the scriptures the people that in His eyes are blessed and will be found both currently AND eternally joyful and happy. Are we able to embrace a season of waiting alongside the truth that we can be blessed in that same season by agreeing with the truths of the following scriptures?
-

Psalm 1:1-3, Psalm 32:1-2, Psalm 34:8, Psalm 40:4, Psalm 41:1, Psalm 84:4-5, Psalm 89:15, Psalm 94:12, Psalm 106:3, Psalm 119:1-2, Proverbs 8:32-34. Isaiah 30:18, Jeremiah 17:7, Matthew 5:3-11, Luke 1:45, Luke 6:20-22, Luke 11:28, Luke 12:37-38, John 20:29, James 1:12, 1 Peter 3:14, 1 Peter 4:14, Revelation 1:3, Revelation 14:13, Revelation 19:9, Revelation 22:7, Revelation 22:14

- D. Just because you are in a season of waiting...does not mean that you need to wait to be blessed! It is when we are blessed that we can bless the Lord. A season of waiting should never lead you to be in a season of “survival mode.” The Lord does not desire that we would simply survive...He desires that we would have hearts that are alive and revived in His goodness and lovingkindness. The Lord is not withholding His love from us in season of waiting and therefore, we have no excuse to withhold love and praise to Him!

³ *Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.*

⁴ *Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.*

⁵ *My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness,
And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. (Psalm 63:3-5)*

III. THE LORD HAS CHOSEN US

⁴ *Blessed is the man You choose... (Psalm 65:4a)*

- A. People often look at a season of waiting as a season of withholding. And when we feel withheld from, we feel alone and as if we are abandoned...forsaken...unloved...and unchosen. It makes it all the more important that we agree with the truth that we have been chosen and accepted in the Beloved! The question isn't, “Has God chosen me?” The question is, “Have I chosen God?”

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:3-6)*

- B. If the temptation in a season of waiting is to believe that the Lord is distant and not near to us...then we believe that the reason for His distance is that He does not love us or choose us.
- C. The world tells us that our confidence in approaching others is found in whether we have something to offer them. Men approach women to go on dates because they feel like they have something to offer her. Friends approach new friends because they feel the confidence that they are worth being friends with. We walk into job interviews with our resumes with the confidence that someone wants to hire us based of our talents and giftings. And yet...that is not the way of the kingdom of God. He calls us to approach Him not based on the confidence of our own merit or worth, but rather the confidence that He chooses to love us perfectly without any hesitation.

¹⁸ *The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. (Psalm 34:18)*

- D. The world finds imperfection to be unattractive and urges us to run from anyone who is broken. But, the Lord draws near to the broken hearted and the needy because He knows that such people will fully depend on Him and receive His love. The world looks at those who are weak as worthless and failures...but the Lord understands that the weak ones are those who are both bold and loyal. It is the weak ones in whom He can show Himself strong! Our weakness and imperfection does not disqualify us from intimacy with the Lord!

⁹ And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 2:9-10)

⁹ For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore, from now on you shall have wars.” (2 Chronicles 16:9)

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

- E. Paul understood that when he declared His imperfections that the Lord would show His strength through His wholehearted abandonment towards the Lord. There is an honor in being weak before the Lord because His eyes are searching for these ones. In a season of waiting, you are helpless and the world will call you hopeless. It is in these seasons where the world will call you “foolish” and the Lord will call you “loyal”. It is these seasons that the world will tell you to stop waiting and the Lord will say, “Continue to be bold and expectant!”

IV. THE LORD HAS GIVEN US THE GRACE TO APPROACH HIM

⁴ Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You... (Psalm 65:4a)

- A. Our boldness to approach the Lord comes from our confidence in knowing that He has chosen us first. We are able to draw near to Him and love Him because He loved us first and showed forth that love by choosing to die innocently on the cross.

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10:19-22)

¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:19)

- B. The Lord desires us to be close to Him. He neither forces us to draw near to Him nor does He leave us abandoned to our own means to come into His presence. He has made a way by the blood of Jesus and also through His gracious word and generous Holy Spirit to empower us enter into His presence. In a season of waiting, the Lord has not gone silent. The question is, “Have we chosen to turn our ears towards Him?”
-

- C. It is imperative that in a season of waiting that we are diligent in prayer and reading His word. His voice will come forth clearly out of the pages of the scriptures. The leadership of the voice of the Holy Spirit will be evident when you give yourself to prayer. You will hear Him calling you to seek His face. You will hear Him alluring you to the place of intimacy. You will hear Him calling you to arise and come with Him. And His voice will empower you to seek after Him until you find Him. You will endure the waiting with joy, hope and peace. And you will be fervent of heart, full of thanksgiving and praise to the Lord, until He brings every promise to completion.

⁸ *When You said, “Seek My face,”*

My heart said to You, “Your face, Lord, I will seek.” (Psalm 27:8)

¹⁴ *“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness,
And speak comfort to her. (Hosea 2:14)*

⁸ *The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes
Leaping upon the mountains, Skipping upon the hills.*

⁹ *My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he stands behind our wall;
He is looking through the windows, Gazing through the lattice.*

¹⁰ *My beloved spoke, and said to me: “Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away...”
(Song of Solomon 2:8-10a)*

- D. We must never forget that His words are gracious. Every word that comes forth from His mouth is meant to empower us to be loved by Him and to love Him.

² *You are fairer than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon Your lips;
Therefore God has blessed You forever. (Psalm 45:2)*

¹⁴ *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the
only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*

- E. There are going to be moments and season our whole life that are filled with difficult circumstances. In fact, our entire life is season of waiting on the return of Jesus. It is an honor to hear Him speak...and to walk in agreement with what He says. We must never give in to the lie that it is burdensome to hear the voice of the Lord because we are too focused on the sacrifice we have to make to follow His commands rather than the glory and honor of having the God of all creation speak to us. His commands are a demonstration of our God’s lovingkindness and not of a god who is mean spirited, inconsiderate or unsympathetic towards us.

³ *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not
burdensome. (1 John 5:3)*

V. THE LORD DESIRES THAT WE DRAW NEAR TO HIM AND REMAIN

⁴ *That he may dwell in Your courts.*

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple. (Psalm 65:4b)

- A. The Lord doesn't choose to love you for a moment...and therefore, He doesn't want us to simply draw near for a moment. He doesn't want us to just to drop by His house for a couple minutes. He doesn't want us to pay a visit. The Lord is not like man. He does not move on try to find something or someone better the moment that we don't meet His expectations. He wants us to abide...remain...and be completely satisfied in His presence.

***¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11)***

- B. He will show us and lead us on the pathway to intimacy with Him. We do not have to wait to draw near to Him. Whatever promise we are waiting for today, we do not need to wait to hear His voice and know that He has chosen us. We do not need to wait to be loved. He is not withholding His goodness or His presence from us.
-