

“Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.” (Hab. 3:2)

I. Seasons of Waiting

- A. Even the briefest overview of the activity and interaction of God with humanity would clearly reveal that He has a very distinct pattern in which he works with us to bring forth His desires in our day.
1. The season of Vision – All of His activity starts with a vision or a promise in which he shows the individuals what He wants to partner with them to do or see happen. The individuals say “Yes” to partnership and set out in hope and faith to see the vision come to pass.
 2. The season of Waiting – There is not one story in the history of redemption where God gives a vision or a promise and then immediately fulfills it. There is always a season of waiting in which the individuals are tested by lack of fulfillment and adversity. God gives confirmations of His promise or vision during this season to help the individuals not lose heart and to stir them up again to see the vision come to pass.
 3. The season of Fulfillment – Generally after a very long season of waiting the fulfillment comes suddenly and surprisingly with much awe and wonder resulting in praise and glory given to God.
- B. When looking at this recurring progression throughout redemptive history we can confidently conclude that God is really into setting us up for seasons of waiting. The season of waiting is always the majority of the storyline of this progression of God’s activity.
- C. With seasons of waiting so clearly woven into the fabric of God’s activity and interaction with us it begs the question. Why do we get so thrown off when seasons of waiting happen to us?

II. Our current instant culture

- A. Part of the challenge of waiting upon God is that we live in a culture of instant gratification. If we find ourselves waiting for things for more than a few days or with some things a few minutes we respond with anxiety and irritation.
1. 47% of online consumers expect a website to load in 2 seconds or less.

Victorious Waiting

2. If an online video takes longer than 10 seconds to load 85% of online participants will leave.
 3. Google searches for “same day” shipping is up 120% since 2015 and 88% of consumers insist on “same day” shipping and are willing to pay 20% more of the item cost to get it delivered the “same day”.
 4. Google also reports that searches for “tonight” and “today” concerning hotels and flights are up 150% in the last 2 years.
- B. In the study of the instant gratification culture every study indicates (Christian and secular) that there is always one common negative trend of instant gratification. Individuals who are inclined towards instant gratification struggle with deep and lasting personal relationships.

III. Why Wait?

- A. When we understand how damaging instant gratification is to our souls when it comes to relationship it then becomes clear that God’s intentionality to make us wait upon Him is for our good and for the fullness of our relationship with Him.
- B. Hebrew word most commonly translated “wait” means to twist strands of thread or rope together to make it more robust. In other words, if someone is waiting, they are being made stronger. There are multiple arenas of the growth of our love for God in which this is true of waiting. (Faith, Humility, Intimacy, Dependence, Partnership, Patience ext.)

“I have come to the conclusion that waiting of God involves active focus, it is not passive. God is not wanting to do things for us but rather in partnership with us. As you read the scriptures you will find that this is a central theme in the subject of waiting on God.” – Bill Johnson

IV. Don’t lose Heart

“I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!” (Ps. 27:13-14)

- A. In the scriptures and especially in the psalms we are given exhortations to wait patiently on the Lord and let him do His work in us and around us in His perfect timing and in His perfect way. Let’s examine these encouragements and allow them to strengthen us in the waiting.
1. **We all struggle with waiting** – It’s comforting to know that Jesus knows that it’s difficult for us to wait on Him. He sees us in our struggle

and wants to strengthen us. This truth is proven to us in the multiple exhortations that He gave to us in His word. (Over 30 direct references)

2. **God's leadership is perfect** – We can trust in the goodness and perfection of His rule over the affairs and future of the personal and corporate lives of humanity. Even in the mystery of free will His leadership is flawless and purposeful. He is always active and always orchestrating with our best in mind. (Lam. 3:25-26; Is. 49:23; 64:4-5)
3. **God can use any situation or circumstance to further us in love** – Even when the fallenness of man or the power of darkness seems to be prevailing in our circumstances God can produce goodness and love in us and through us in every circumstance. The only eternal work of dark circumstances upon your life will be the eternal goodness and righteousness that God produced in you through those circumstances. (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 4:15-17)
4. **Worry represses waiting** – Worrying is the antagonist of waiting and produces fear. Overwhelmingly, when we are exhorted “to wait” it is married to the exhortation to not worry. (Ps. 31:22; 37:7-8; Mat. 6:25-34)
5. **Delighting in Jesus frees us to wait** – Delighting in and encountering Jesus always results in the elimination of worry and fear and brings us peace and joy in the midst of any circumstance. (Ps. 27:1-14; 37:4-5; Jer. 17:7-8; Mat. 6:33)
6. **Sin and death have an expiration date** – When exhorted to wait we are also often encouraged to remind ourselves to be confident in the sure defeat and expiration of wickedness. All wickedness will all eventually lose its place of influence and ultimately wickedness and evil will be but a distant memory. (Ps. 37; Rev. 18-21)
7. **You have a Kingdom heart** - Your heart was made for the kingdom of God. There will always be an ache for the coming of the King and the restoration of all things. No matter how “good” things are going for you in this age you will still be waiting upon the Lord for the promise of salvation. (Rom. 8:23; 2 Cor. 5:2-4; Phil 3:20)
8. **Cultivate Hope for the Kingdom** – Cultivating hope for the age to come is an anchor for our soul and gives us proper perspective of the temporal things we are waiting on God for breakthrough in. (Col. 3:1-4; Heb. 6:19)