

THE WAITING THAT
WEARIES US

Few people enjoy waiting, even for a few extra moments; the person sits still after the light turns green, someone ahead of you clearly has more than ten items in the checkout line, or the doctor's office seems to be running on a different time zone. There are those times when the minutes turn into hours, the hours into days, then stretch into weeks, and perhaps even years, of waiting. We wait on countless things, but the most difficult seasons of waiting are when you pray, but God doesn't seem to be in a hurry (Isaiah 40:27-31).

Like many of us, maybe you feel like you've been forgotten and that God has ignored your prayers. No matter how tempted we might be to step into despair and self-reliance, we must wait on God with a trusting heart because he always keeps his promises (Psalm 62:5).

Waiting on the Lord is the practice of being disciplined, expectant and active in our waiting, though at times the waiting may be painful. Waiting on God is being able to say to him, "God, I choose to trust you and I will obey you regardless of how things seem or what may (or may not) happen."

A. B. Simpson once wrote: *"There are some spiritual conditions that cannot be accomplished in a moment. The breaking up of the fallow ground takes time. The frosts of winter are as necessary as the rains of spring to prepare the soil for fertility. God has to break our hearts to pieces by the slow process of his discipline, and grind every particle to power, and then to mellow us and saturate us with his blessed Spirit, until we are open for the blessing he has to give us. Oh, let us wait*

Far too often, because of impatience, we sacrifice the "best" yet to come and settle for the "good enough" now. We give up in our prayers and give in to the weariness. Instead, we must continually seek God, and wait in faith, for as long as it takes for him to answer; we trust that God is always good, even in his delays (Micah 7:7).

Prayer prompt: Read the following verses: Psalm 27:14; Psalm 33:20-22; Lamentations 3:25-26; Psalm 130:5-6. Ask God to renew your endurance, strength and wisdom in your waiting.

*For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.*

- Psalm 62:5

*What God does in us while we wait is as
important as what we're waiting for.*

• Ben Patterson

*I am sure that God keeps no one waiting
unless He sees that it is good for him to wait.*

- C.S. Lewis