

# In the Waiting, God is Working: Finding Purpose in Life's Pauses

We all experience seasons of waiting. Looking around the room, many hands were raised when asked who was currently in a place of waiting - at a crossroads, uncertain of what's next. These waiting periods aren't abnormal or wrong - they're simply part of life's journey.

The key takeaway? Don't despise the days of waiting on God. They're valuable, beneficial, and necessary in ways we often don't recognize until later.

## What Does Waiting on God Look Like?

In Acts 1, we find the disciples in a waiting period. Jesus had ascended to heaven after instructing them to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came. They had no timeline - just a promise and instructions to wait.

What did they do during this waiting period? Their example provides a powerful template for us:

### 1. They Stayed in Fellowship with Believers

"They all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers" (Acts 1:14).

The disciples didn't wander away from the Lord or His people during this uncertain time. Despite being a diverse group - fishermen, tax collectors, zealots - they remained united. The resurrection of Jesus had transformed how they viewed life itself, binding them together as family.

Many people jump ship when things aren't going according to plan or when God isn't working in ways they understand. But fellowship becomes even more important during waiting seasons. Hebrews 10 reminds us not to give up meeting together but to encourage one another "all the more as you see the Day approaching."

### 2. They Prioritized Prayer

Their gatherings weren't pity parties or mere social events. They "continued in prayer and supplication" - making prayer a daily priority. Their prayer time included both worship and specific requests.

When we take time to pray during waiting periods, we gain perspective and peace we didn't have before. Sometimes our prayers even change - from asking for specific outcomes to simply saying, "Lord, may your will be done."

Prayer prepares us to cooperate with whatever God wants to do next. Before the power fell in Acts 2, the prayers rose in Acts 1. This principle remains true today - before God moves powerfully, His people pray fervently.

### 3. They Applied God's Word

Peter stood up and applied Scripture to their situation regarding Judas's betrayal and the need to replace him. He knew the Scriptures well enough to see how they applied to current circumstances.

When you don't know what to do next, go back to God's Word for direction and guidance. It will reveal His plan and will for you as you spend time listening and letting the Lord speak to your heart.

# How Do We Discern God's Will While Waiting?

From the disciples' example in Acts 1, we can extract four principles for discerning God's will during waiting periods:

## 1. Look to the Word of God

Just as Peter did, we need to be in God's Word to understand His will. Scripture provides the foundation for all godly decision-making.

## 2. Use Common Sense

The disciples applied the same qualifications Jesus used when selecting apostles. While we want to see miracles, sometimes God works through natural means. Don't neglect God's work in the natural because you're expecting something spectacular.

## 3. Continue in Prayer

Prayer keeps us God-reliant rather than self-reliant. It aligns our hearts with His purposes.

## 4. Let the Spirit Lead

Seek counsel from other believers. Ask them to pray with you about your situation. Eventually, there comes a point where you must step forward in faith based on what God has put in your heart.

# Why Does God Make Us Wait?

Waiting isn't punishment - it serves important purposes in our spiritual development:

## 1. God's Plan

God has perfect timing for everything. In Acts 2, the Spirit fell on Pentecost when people from many nations were gathered in Jerusalem - maximizing the gospel's spread. Sometimes God's timing in your life - regarding that job, health issue, or unresolved situation - serves a greater purpose you can't yet see.

## 2. God's Person (You)

Waiting builds character. Isaiah 40:31 reminds us that "those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength." Waiting gives perspective and allows our hearts to rest in Him.

## 3. God's Protection

Waiting guards us from grave mistakes and fleshly reactions. How often has God kept you from making a bigger mistake by saying "hands off right now"? Patience, though difficult, protects us from ourselves.

# Life Application

This week, I challenge you to embrace your waiting season rather than fighting against it. Instead of viewing your waiting period as wasted time, see it as preparation time.

Ask yourself:

- Am I staying connected with other believers during this waiting season?
- Have I been consistent in prayer, or am I trying to figure everything out on my own?
- Am I spending time in God's Word to gain direction?
- What character qualities might God be developing in me through this waiting period?

- Could God be protecting me from something by having me wait?

Remember Psalm 27:14: "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." Waiting on God will ultimately produce a great testimony. One day you'll be able to say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us" (Isaiah 25:9).

Though waiting is challenging, it prepares your heart for God's next move in your life. Don't despise it—embrace it. As you wait patiently and look to Him expectantly, you'll find that waiting is a necessary and valuable time for spiritual growth.