

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Shattered
Title: Waiting for God
Text: Hebrews 11:39-40; Psalm 37:7-9
Speaker: Steve Berg
Date: November 3, 2019



WARM-UP

Why do you hate to wait? What is a story that you can tell about becoming impatient with waiting? What is a story about the benefits of waiting?

DISCUSSION

Many people have been shattered in their faith because they did not receive what they believed was promised (Hebrews 11:39). The challenge is that the biblically equipped person must practice the discipline of waiting. The devoted follower of Jesus must prepare herself/himself to wait for God.

1. Discuss these biblical benefits of waiting for God:
 - Because we are reminded of who God is and what He is able to do - Jeremiah 14:22; Psalm 62:1-12; 25:5; Hosea 12:6; Psalm 39:7; 123:1-2; 145:15; 52:9
 - Because we are reminded of who we are and what we are not able to do - Psalm 52:6-7; Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23; Psalm 37:9
 - Because while we wait God sustains and satisfies us - Psalm 145:14-16
 - Because waiting strengthens and empowers us - Isaiah 40:31
 - Because waiting builds our character - Psalm 37:7-9
 - Because waiting brings praise to God and witnesses to people - Psalm 40:2-3; 42:5-11; 43:5; 145:15-21
2. Discuss the attitudes of impatience that give sin roots in our lives:
 - Impatience introduces envy – you look at your neighbor and wish for the life of someone who doesn't appear to be waiting for anything. You feel forgotten and forsaken and crave what the other person enjoys.
 - Impatience introduces anger – you look around and the bad guys are succeeding and the good guys are failing. That God makes you wait is an offense against you. You are angry at the others and God.
 - Impatience introduces doubt – what you are waiting for what you consider good. To wait is to be delayed in receiving a legitimate need or desire. You doubt God's wisdom, goodness, and love.
 - Impatience introduces fear – your thoughts and emotions begin to circle around, "what if..?" What if my circumstances don't change? What if the opportunities pass me by while I wait? What if I wait for God but He does nothing to help me?

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DISCUSSION

- Impatience introduces unbelief – If He doesn't give me what He has promised, maybe God isn't good, faithful, or active in my life? Maybe none of this is real? Maybe putting my trust in God doesn't help?
3. What do you learn from Israel's sin of impatience? Psalm 106:13-15
 4. Discuss these important questions to consider while you learn to wait for God:
 - What does it mean to wait?
 - How do we wait?
 - Who and what are we waiting for?
 - Why should we wait?
 - How long do we wait?