



Waiting for God's Timing
Sunday October 20, 2024

SUMMARY

Of all the principles we learn in the Scriptures, the one that stands out the most is the concept of "Waiting"

The Bible mentions waiting 116 times.

God's will, include His timing. He has a plan mapped out for each of us, but He only reveals it one step at a time. When we follow His plan, He is glorified, and we are fulfilled.

Delays can feel agonizing, but God has a bird's-eye view and His timing is perfect. Thankfully, patience can be learned.

Even when it's hard to see, God is always working behind the scenes, aligning everything for our good. Waiting for the Lord means believing that His timing is perfect and that He will fulfill His promises in ways beyond our imagination.

This command is given to us because God knows that it's not easy for us to wait, especially if we've already had to do so for an extended period of time, God loves us and desires to meet the needs of our lives. He promises to answer our prayers, but not always according to our timing or method. God's timing is something that we will never be able to fully wrap our minds around in this life.

Our understanding of God's timing will always be limited, but that doesn't mean The Bible doesn't help us out.

In today's sermon we glean from the lives of individuals from the Bible and gain insights on the importance of waiting for God's timing.

We are frequently admonished in Scripture to "wait":

- ***Psalm 27:14 "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"***
- ***Psalm 33:20-22 "Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. because we trust in his holy name".***



- ***Psalm 130:5 "I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his Word, I put my hope"***
- ***Psalm 40:1 "I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me and heard my cry".***
- ***Isaiah 64:4 "For since the beginning of the world men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, who acts for the one who waits for Him"***
- ***Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint".***

"Wait on the Lord" vs "Waiting for God's timing"

- "Waiting on the Lord" is a posture of spending time in fellowship with God in prayer, worship and listening to His Word.
- "Waiting for God's timing" is the confident expectation of His plans, purposes, promises to be fulfilled in our lives.
It involves:
 - Submitting to His will and timing.
 - Relying on His wisdom and knowledge.
 - Expecting His guidance and intervention.

Life lessons from the Bible:

(Pastors, please briefly go over the timeline, no need to get into the details)

Abraham

- His call to fulfill a divine plan (Genesis 12:1-3)
- He stepped out in faith and obedience (Genesis 12:4)
 - Abraham was 75 years old when he first received the promise, and Genesis 21:5
- Along the way Abraham had doubts, experienced moral failure, made mistakes, etc. (Genesis 12:13, Genesis 16, Genesis 20)
- God encouraged him giving him a clear picture of the promise (Genesis 15:1-21)
- Abraham received righteousness by faith (Genesis 15:6)
- God changed his identity and his speech by changing his name (Genesis 17:5-7)



- God changes his name from Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of a multitude), and his wife's name from Sarai (princess, princely) to Sarah (princess of a multitude).
- Abraham received the promise of a son through Sarah (Genesis 21:3)
 - Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born. Sarah was 90.
 - Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for the fulfillment of God's promise. (Genesis 21:5)

Key Insights from Abraham's Waiting:

1. Trust in God's Timing
2. Faith in Action
3. Embracing Uncertainty

Abraham's life illustrates that waiting on the Lord can lead to deeper trust and a richer understanding of His promises.

Each moment of waiting can shape us, preparing us for the fulfilment of God's plans in our lives.

David

- David was anointed to be king while a teenage boy. Let us say he was 17 years of age at this time.
- He had his initial training taking care of his father's sheep. It must have been during this time that he developed his skill in music, killed the lion and the bear and gained a good reputation among the people of Israel.
- He had initial success when he killed Goliath and became a national hero.
- The tide turned and David had to run for his life when King Saul decided to kill him.
- The next 5-6 years, David lived like a vagabond (1 Samuel 22:1,2). The man who was anointed to be king spent some time in caves.
- However, it was during this time that God sent 400 men who joined David who later became important captains in his mighty army.
 - When David was about 23 years old, he became the king of Judah (2 Samuel 2:1-4).
- David was 30 years old when he was finally made King over all Israel and Judah (2 Samuel 5:4,5). He then reigned for 33 years as King.
- About 14 years of preparation—from the time of his "calling" by the prophet Samuel to when he was "commissioned" to step into his call

Key Insights from David's Waiting:

1. Anointing and Reality
2. Courage in Adversity



3. Development of Character

Through his story, we learn that waiting can refine our character, fortify our resolve, and cultivate unwavering trust in God's sovereign plan.

Paul

- Paul must have been about 33 years of age when he had his encounter on the Damascus Road with the Lord Jesus. It took that many years to be trained.
- At the time of his encounter, the Lord Jesus revealed Paul's calling to be a light to the Gentiles, an apostle of the faith.
- Paul initially spent 3 years in Damascus and Arabia (Galatians 1:16,17; Acts 9:19-25). People tried to kill him in Damascus, and so he fled into Arabia and then returned later. It must have been during this time that he received much of the revelation of the Gospel, which he preached.
- After this, he visited Jerusalem for 15 days (Galatians 1:18; Acts 9:26-30) during which time he preached boldly. But once again, people tried to kill him, and he left for Tarsus.
- He then spent about 13 years in the regions of Tarsus, Syria and Cilicia (Galatians 1:21-24; Galatians 2:1).
- Toward the end of these 13 years, Barnabas came to Tarsus and brought Saul to Antioch (Acts 11:25,26).
- Paul then spent a whole year teaching in the church at Antioch.
- At the end of this year, Paul made his second trip to Jerusalem along with Barnabas to carry relief to those in the middle of a famine (Acts 11:29,30). So, he went to Jerusalem after a gap of 14 years (Galatians 2:1).
- At this point, about 17 years had elapsed since his meeting with the Lord on the road to Damascus. Paul must have been about 50 years old at this time.
- Nothing much is recorded about the first 17 years of Paul's Christian life and walk with God. Of course, we know that Paul preached and taught during this time. We know that he received revelation and understanding of the mysteries of God. However, nothing much is recorded about what he did and preached. These are referred to as the "silent years" of Paul's life. These, in addition to His prior training under Judaism, formed part of his training.
- Finally, in Acts 13, after 17 years, Paul is called into his first missionary journey with Barnabas (Acts 13:1-4).
- In Acts 14:14, Paul, along with Barnabas, is referred to as an apostle for the first time. It was about 17 years after his encounter with the Lord that Paul stepped into his apostolic ministry. 17 years of waiting and preparation even for the apostle Paul!
God is not in a hurry!!

Key Insights from Paul's Waiting:



1. The Call and Preparation
2. Seeking God's Guidance
3. Perseverance in Trials

His journey illustrates the importance of trust and perseverance in the face of uncertainty.

Jesus:

- God the Father waited for an appointed time to send His son Jesus Christ into the world.
- ***Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, 40 And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."***
- ***Galatians 4:4- "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law"***
- Although the coming of the "Seed" of the woman was foretold in the Garden of Eden, it was not until about 4000 years later that Christ came into this world.
- The work of God is always released into the earth in the fullness of time.
- God speaks to us about the work He calls us to do, ahead of time, often many years ahead of time. But He releases His work through us at the appointed time.
- Jesus only began His ministry at age 30.

Jesus' life provides profound insights into the theme of waiting on the Lord, demonstrating how even He, the Son of God, engaged in moments of patience and reliance on divine timing. Jesus exemplified the essence of waiting on the Lord through prayer.

As He faced the imminent cross, He surrendered His desires to the Father's will. Waiting often involves wrestling with our own desires, but like Jesus, we can find peace in yielding to God's purpose

We must understand that not all delays are from God, it could also be because we are failing to do what we should be doing.

- We must accept responsibility to do our part
- We will have to move in great faith
- We must be very flexible
- We need to hold fast to past promises (prophecies)



- We must live in complete obedience
- We need to realize there will be battles we have to fight
- We must recognize our need for help
- We must let His peace sustain us

Why does God require that we wait?

- **To receive His clear direction.**

Psalm 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"

- Not knowing the future, we may sometimes become impatient, thinking we'll lose out on something good if we don't act now. However, what God has planned for our life already has our name on it.
- He has given us His Word and His Spirit to teach and guide us. By heeding His instruction, we are conformed to the image of Christ and empowered to walk obediently in His will and according to His schedule.

- **To keep us in step with His timing.**

Psalm 32:8 - "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you"

- The Lord is never in a hurry. He created time and has planned everything perfectly. However, He doesn't reveal everything to us when we want it. Even when we've asked according to His will, and He's given us a confirmation in our spirits about something He wants to do in our lives, we can't presume to know when it will happen. Sometimes He holds it back because we aren't ready to receive it. That's when we must trust that His ways and timing are best.

- **To test our faith.**

James 1:2-3- "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience".

- We already have all the blessings that God has promised us, but sometimes He restrains them until we trust Him. He wants us to believe Him even when we can't clearly see the details of those blessings.

- **To strengthen our faith**

Isaiah 41:10- "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you,



I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

- Waiting teaches us to walk by faith, trusting God's timing instead of giving in to immediate self-gratification.
- **To sift the motives for our desires.**

Psalms 37:4 – "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart".

- Sometimes we pray selfishly, God's delay in answering our prayers gives us time to see situations from His viewpoint.

How should we wait?

- **Patiently:** ***"I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and will trust in the Lord" (Psalm 40:1-3).***
- We can wait patiently for God if we understand that He is wiser than we are and that blessings follow obedience.
- **Quietly:** ***"My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him" (Psalm 62:5).***
- Instead of complaining, we should wait calmly for the Lord's provision.
- **Trusting.:** ***"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" Proverbs 3:5-6***
- Waiting isn't passive resignation but active trust in God, which allows us to rest in Him and wait patiently. We bring our requests to Him and trust that He will answer as a loving Father would—in the right way and time. We can trust Him to keep His Word and do what is best for us.
- **Expectantly:** ***"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living" (Psalm 27:13).***



- After salvation, the Holy Spirit came to take up residence within us and give us guidance for life. Therefore, we can confidently expect that He will direct our paths and show us both the way and the timing.
- For this reason, we should begin each day with the Lord in prayer and wait expectantly for Him to guide us through this sinful world.
- **Courageously: “Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord” (Psalm 27:14).**
- Waiting on God may require courage when we don't understand why He is delaying His response.
- **Standing on God's Word: “I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope” (Psalm 130:5).**
- Scripture is the foundation on which we stand as we watch for God to act according to His perfect timing and will. He has given us a promise:
- *“This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him” (1 John 5:14-15).*

RESPONSE:

In conclusion, waiting is a journey of faith filled with hope, trust, and active service. As we navigate our own seasons of waiting, let us remember to:

1. Hope in the Lord – (Abraham) - renews our strength.
2. Trusting God's timing – (David) - helps us endure our trials.
3. Prayerful surrender – (Paul) - aligns our will with His.
4. God's faithfulness – (Jesus) - assures us of His presence.
5. Active waiting – (Our self) - empowers us to serve others.

Let us embrace the gift of waiting, knowing that it can lead us to a deeper relationship with God and a stronger faith.

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME



Waiting for God's Timing
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

Minister as the Spirit leads



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Waiting on God's Timing
Sunday October 20, 2024**

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *see below*.

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1. How would your life change if each day we asked God specifically to guide us into His plan for that day?
2. How do we typically respond when God delays in intervening in our life?
3. How would understanding His purpose change our response? Think of your most recent experience waiting on God. What do you think He was trying to teach you?
4. How can we see blessings in spite of pain? What blessings did you experience during a trying time in your life?



5. How can we trust God's timing? What personal experiences have helped you trust God?

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.*

Close by thanking God together.



Waiting for God's Timing Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

KEYWORDS

REFERENCES/CITATIONS