

# I'M IN A HURRY AND GOD ISN'T

## Psalm 27

Wednesday, November 7, 2007 | Prestonwood Baptist Church | Plano, TX | David H. McKinley

I love the book of Psalms. In my personal devotions, I often find myself in the middle section of my Bible, reading and reflecting on the treasures I find there. One of my favorite psalms is Psalm 27.

Psalm 27 is a psalm of courage, confidence and comfort. It is a psalm intended to calm troubled hearts and pressured lives. It is a psalm that calls us to worship and instills peace and patience as we see life and its circumstances in light of who God is rather than where we are.

Read Psalm 27.

I must admit, the challenge in the last verse is not always easy:

“Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD” (Psalm 27:14).

In our hurry up, just-get-it-done, do-it-yesterday world, waiting for anything can cause us to lose our temper, our judgment (sense) or our tongue. No one enjoys waiting—not in a line, not at a stoplight, not at an airport, not in a restaurant. Most of us want everything *now*.

Waiting. We wait because we have to, not because we want to. Waiting is both a necessity and a reality, but not a desirable activity.

Sometimes when life slows down to a standstill, we can even find ourselves waiting in a “standoff” with God.

Have you ever had a standoff with a pet, a child, a mate, a friend or at an intersection? What about with God? Spiritual standoffs are a reality and frankly, not much fun.

Standoffs with God occur when we want God to do something today that He has chosen to do at another time. We're not sure whether He is to make the next move or we are.

Are you *waiting on God* today? If you are like most people, waiting on God can be one of life's most trying experiences.

### Common Reactions When I'm in a Hurry and God Isn't

- **Worry**  
Do you worry in the morning and let it intensify throughout the day? “Do not be anxious about anything” (Philippians 4:6).
- **Jump to Conclusions**  
“You do not know what a day may bring” (Proverbs 27:1).
- **Create Your Own Way**
- **Compare Yourself With Others**

In Psalm 27:14, we receive an exhortation that is repeated twice for emphasis. What is it? Wait.

### Things to Remember When I'm in a Hurry and God Isn't

- **God gives clear direction to those who wait on Him.**

God promises over and over again in His Word to give guidance to those who look to and trust in Him.

Here are a couple of examples:

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you” (Psalm 32:8).

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

The world acts on instinct apart from God, but God's Word instructs the Christian to heed God's instruction and wait on Him.

“God always gives a signal at the intersection.” —R.C. Henderson

- **God uses waiting to get us in step with His purpose and timing.**

When you run ahead of God, you will experience anxiousness; but when you walk with God, you will experience peace. God would not have you do something or lead you into a particular direction if He did not have a plan to see you through. His plan and your timetable may not always match, but if you trust Him, His projection will be complete and perfect every time.

Parents often say, “Let's wait,” in order to provide what is best for their children at a later time. So it is with God. He will sometimes direct you, His child, to wait in order to complete His future plan and purpose for your life.

- **God uses waiting to strengthen our faith and to sift our motives.**

“Muscles of faith never grow apart from endurance.” —Charles Swindoll

Faith pleases God, and He wants you to be a person of strong faith in Him. Let me assure you, you don't want to follow in the steps of

those who are great in knowledge, but weak in faith. In the process of building faith, God purifies motives. It is amazing what waiting can show you about yourself.

## Important Responses

### When I'm in a Hurry and God Isn't

What should you do and how should you do it?

#### • Wait Actively

There are those who may see waiting as passive—twiddling your thumbs while emptying your mind and heart of desire. You may even see waiting as a desertion of God's activity.

"One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple" (Psalm 27:4).

God does not intend for His "waiting rooms" to create anxiety in the hearts of His people. In the Bible, the word, *wait*, does not carry the idea of passivity, but of activity.

It is the idea of *attending to*—similar to a waiter who attends to people dining in a restaurant. A waiter anticipates service, and is attentive and active in response.

I urge you to do what you know to be the will of God today until He reveals or directs expansion of His will tomorrow. Continue to pray, witness, give, fellowship, etc. Work diligently at your present job. Be kind and caring to those around you. Be a committed Christian. Don't use "seeking the will of God" as an excuse to live a drifter's life.

#### • Wait Patiently

"Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself

over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices" (Psalm 37:7).

Endure until God works. Patience is an attitude you should choose while you are waiting on Him.

"Patiently waiting is valuable because the Lord has instruction for us. While we are waiting, He has our attention. We are ready for correction... reproof... personality adjustment... lessons in obedience." —Dick Mills

Here is the process: God makes a promise, then *faith* believes it, *hope* anticipates it and *patience* quietly awaits it.

#### • Wait Silently

Wait silently without grumbling or complaining. I see it all the time in waiting rooms—sighs, fidgets and grips, versus calm enjoyment.

"Truly my soul silently waits for God" (Psalm 62:1 NKJV).

Saul (Paul) gives us a good example of waiting silently. After his conversion on the Damascus Road, he went into the Arabian Desert to be alone with God and to wait. (See Galatians 1:15-17)

#### • Wait Expectantly

Never lose sight of the fact that God always comes through. As you wait, your sense of discernment can be sharpened to see the activity of God and perceive the work of His hand in ways like never before.

"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.' The LORD is good to those

who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth" (Lamentations 3:21-27).

"I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I do hope" (Psalm 130:5).

If you have no other direction, you have this:

"For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

Wait expectantly!

## Review the Results of Waiting on God

Those who fail to wait often experience disobedience, loss of joy and even injury. Let me encourage you to wait with these verses:

"But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

"It will be said on that day, 'Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation'" (Isaiah 25:9).

God will take you to new levels of victory when you wait on Him.

"I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry" (Psalm 40:1).

"From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him" (Isaiah 64:4).

Wait on the Lord! If you are struggling, let me encourage you to ask God to transform your understanding of this necessary part of your walk with Him. It is not easy; it is not often enjoyable, but it is essential.

Don't let standoffs become drift offs or standstills for your faith.

"My case is urgent, and I do not see how I am to be delivered; but this is no business of mine. He who makes the promise will find ways and means of keeping it. It is mine to obey His command; it is not mine to direct His counsels. I am His servant, not His solicitor. I call upon Him and He will deliver me." —Charles Haddon Spurgeon

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