

“It is not the sharpest but the longest trials that we are most in danger of fainting.” —Andrew Fuller

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¹How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? ²How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? ³Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

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⁴lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed over him,” lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. ⁵But I have trusted in Your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. ⁶I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me. —Psalm 13 ESV

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Protest How long?

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“If the reader has never found occasion to use the language of this brief Psalm, he will do so before long, if he is a man after the Lord’s own heart.” —C.H. Spurgeon

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What are we prone to do while waiting?
Like Elijah, we fear we’re forgotten.
Philippians 4:6-8

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¹³... And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He said, "... I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."

—1 Kings 19:13a–14b ESV

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What are we prone to do while waiting?

Like Abraham and Sarah,
we try to take action.

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¹⁰Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of His Servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God. ¹¹Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with burning torches!

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Walk by the light of your fire, and by the torches that you have kindled! This you have from My hand: you shall lie down in torment. —Isaiah 50:10-11 ESV

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For it is You who light my lamp;
the LORD my God lightens my darkness.
—Psalm 18:28 ESV

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What are we prone to do while waiting?

Like Peter, we focus on comparison.

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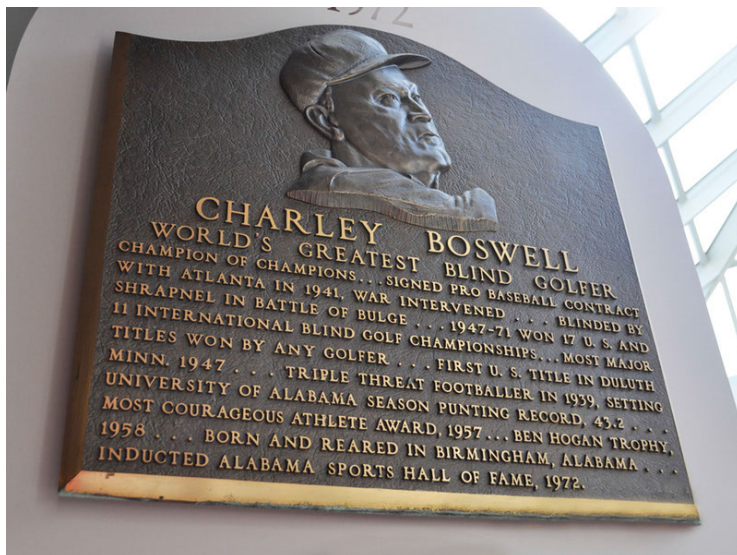
²¹When Peter saw him,
he said to Jesus, "Lord, what
about this man?" ²²Jesus said
to him, "If it is My will that he
remain until I come, what is
that to you? You follow Me!"

—John 21:21-22 ESV

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Prayer
O LORD, My God
Jehovah (Promise), Elohim (Power)

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When we are waiting, we need to remember...

God schedules us into His plan.

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Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put
to shame; they shall be ashamed who are
wantonly treacherous. —Psalm 25:3 ESV

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The LORD is good to those who wait
for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.
—Lamentations 3:25 ESV

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When we are waiting, we need to remember...

God steers us to Himself.

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⁵For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him.

⁶He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. ⁷On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

—Psalm 62:5-7 *ESV*

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When we are waiting, we need to remember...

God shapes us for His will.

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“The muscles of faith never grow apart from endurance.”

—Charles Swindoll

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²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. —Romans 8:28-29 *ESV*

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When we are waiting, we need to remember...

God strengthens us by His grace.

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²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength.

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³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹but 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 40:28-31 ESV

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When we are waiting, we need to remember...

God surprises us
through His goodness.

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Wait for the LORD and keep His way, and He will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off. —Psalm 37:34 ESV

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“Through prayer we discover God’s delays are not His denials, but often His designs for maturity and intimacy with Him.”

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Praise

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¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

—Philippians 3:12-14 ESV

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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 ESV

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Have faith in God when your pathway is lonely;
He sees and knows all the way you have trod.
Never alone are the least of His children;
Have faith in God, have faith in God.

Have faith in God when your prayers are unanswered;
Your earnest plea He will never forget.
Wait on the Lord trust His Word and be patient;
Have faith in God, He'll answer yet.

Have faith in God in your pain and your sorrow;
His heart is touched with your grief and despair.
Cast all your cares and your burdens upon Him;
And leave them there, oh, leave them there.

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Have faith in God though all else fail about you;
Have faith in God, He provides for His own.
He cannot fail though all kingdoms shall perish;
He rules, He reigns, upon His throne.

*Have faith in God, He's on His throne;
Have faith in God, He watches o'er His own.
He cannot fail, He must prevail;
Have faith in God, have faith in God.*

—Baylus Benjamin McKinney

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