

JLH Women's Saturday Devotions

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I Don't Mind Waiting

"Good morning. I have an appointment." The nurse says, "You're early." The lady says, "I don't mind waiting." "Are you sure?" the nurse replies. "Yes, I'm sure." Thirty minutes later the lady asks, "How much longer do I have to wait?" The nurse replies, "A few more minutes. We're pretty busy today. Do you mind waiting?" The lady replies, "I don't mind waiting." Another half-hour passes and the lady becomes impatient. She approaches the nurse. "Excuse me. I don't think I can wait any longer." The nurse says, "It won't be too much longer. Do you mind waiting a couple more minutes?" The lady looks at the clock and says, "I'm not sure. When is your next opening?" The nurse looks through the appointment book and states, "It will be six weeks out." The lady replies, "Don't you have anything sooner?" Then the door opens and another nurse calls out, "Ms. Joann Henriques." I walked toward the second nurse, smiling. She said, "Thank you for waiting." I told her, "God is teaching me to be more patient." Then I looked back at the first nurse. She was smiling also and said to me, "I'm glad you waited." What a moment of witnessing.

In all honesty, I really didn't have any other plans for the day; I was being impatient. Every day we are rushing to go somewhere. If I would've rescheduled for six weeks out, I'd still be waiting. **Psalm 27:14 "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"**

We may not fully understand, but God's plans are helping us to become more patient in our everyday walk and require us to wait. You've heard the phrase, "Patience is a virtue"? It's a phrase we use when a person is impatient. It's not a scripture per se but a proverbial phrase referring to the seven heavenly virtues in "Psychomachia," an epic poem written in the fifth century (from Wikipedia). God, in His perfect will, created us to wait and have patience from the beginning.

Waiting is not easy, but it can bring blessings. Think about this for a moment: we wait for something every day. In a grocery line, perhaps God is preparing someone to pay for our groceries. We wait at the bank's drive-in because if not, we won't receive any money or make any deposits. As single women, we wait as God prepares us for the right husband because if NOT, the marriage may fail. We wait at the restaurant to be served as servants. God's timing is better than ours. **WE MUST LEARN HOW TO WAIT!**

I've learned that to wait you must be walking with God. When the Lord chose people in the Bible, they had to learn to work while waiting to receive the blessings. **They did not sit still; they had to do something.** I'm not saying just sit around, but pray. Abraham was waiting for his son until his wife intervened and he failed. Why? Sarah chose not to wait on the LORD; she was walking in her flesh, not with God. **Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** Abraham had to wait longer for the promise, but no matter what, he didn't mind waiting.

Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, thrown into prison, and lied on by a lustful woman, but he didn't give up on God. He learned how to work and wait. Through it all, he was promoted and received blessings. **Genesis 50:20 But as for you, he thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.** Moses waited 40 years, but due to his disobedience, he couldn't enter the promised land. During those years, he didn't give up; he kept working and waiting. Read **Numbers 20:12...** Hannah asked the LORD for a son and worked during her waiting. As opposition arose, she did not give up but kept praying and waiting until she received her blessing. **1 Samuel 1:20.** Jesus waited 30 years till one day his mother said, "The people have no wine." In this case, Jesus's mother realized her son had waited long enough. He performed his first miracle but made the servants work while waiting. They had to get the pots, fill them with water, and take them to the master. **Read John 2:3-10.**

Waiting requires obedience and much patience, but no matter how distracting it may be around us, the Lord tells us every day to WAIT. Otherwise, we can suffer severe consequences. King Saul had to wait seven days but became impatient at the last moment, allowed the people to dictate his life, and missed his blessings. **Read 1 Samuel 13:8-14.**

You may be facing some challenges by waiting on your children, waiting on a car, waiting on your husband, waiting for a job, waiting on your taxes, waiting on your ministry....Waiting....Waiting....Waiting. I promise you, if the Lord has told you to WAIT...don't give up; keep praying and waiting. I guarantee God has something **BIG WAITING** for you. God Bless.