

In the waiting room with God

Waiting is something we all experience but rarely enjoy. In today's fast-moving culture of instant answers, next-day deliveries, and real-time updates, waiting can feel uncomfortable and unnatural. Yet Scripture shows us that God often does His deepest work in seasons of waiting. The waiting room is not wasted—it is God's classroom where trust, faith, and character are formed.

The Bible is full of waiting rooms. Abraham waited twenty-five years for the promised son (Genesis 21:5). Joseph endured betrayal, slavery, and thirteen years in prison before entering Pharaoh's palace (Genesis 41:46). Moses spent forty years in the desert before leading Israel (Acts 7:30). The Israelites wandered forty years in the wilderness. Even Jesus Himself lived thirty quiet years before three years of ministry (Luke 3:23). The disciples were told to wait in Jerusalem until clothed with power from on high (Acts 1:4).

God is not in a hurry, but His timing is perfect. As Isaiah reminds us: *"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles."* (Isaiah 40:31). Lamentations adds: *"The Lord is good to those who wait for him... it is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."* (Lamentations 3:25–26).

When we are in God's waiting room, the real question is: do we trust Him? Like sitting at a train station, we cannot see the train yet, but we trust the timetable. Faith says: "God has not forgotten me. The next chapter is written, even if I cannot read it yet."

Psalm 27:14 urges: *"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage."* Proverbs 3:5–6 calls us to trust beyond our own understanding: *"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths."* Waiting exposes our impatience, our desire to control, and our lack of trust. Yet it also creates space for God to deepen our faith, refine our character, and align us with His will.

Seasons of waiting are seasons of preparation. Winter may look barren, but roots are growing deep underground. Joseph learned leadership in prison before he ever wore Pharaoh's ring. David served faithfully in Saul's court before he ever wore a crown. Elijah discovered God's voice not in the earthquake or fire, but in the gentle whisper (1 Kings 19:11–12).

Waiting rooms are classrooms where God develops patience, humility, resilience, and deeper intimacy with Him. Romans 5:3–4 reminds us: *"We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."* James 1:4 adds: *"Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."*

Waiting is not passive. It calls us to pray persistently—like the widow before the unjust judge (Luke 18:1–8), keep bringing your requests to God. Prayer keeps us connected to Him as our source. We are to serve faithfully—Joseph in Potiphar's house, David in

Saul's court. Faithfulness in small things prepares us for greater responsibility. We are to listen attentively—Elijah heard God in the gentle whisper. Silence becomes a gift when it sharpens our spiritual ears. We are to wait expectantly: *"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."* (Psalm 27:13). We are also called to wait together: *"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works... encouraging one another."* (Hebrews 10:24–25).

The waiting room is never forever. God always turns the page. Galatians 6:9 promises: *"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not give up."* Habakkuk 2:3 reminds us: *"For the vision is yet for an appointed time... though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come."*

Looking back, many of us can see that God's waiting room has often been where He shaped us most. The impatience gave way to surrender. The questions became conversations with Him. The silence became an invitation to go deeper. His delays were not denials but acts of mercy, preparing us for blessing at the right moment.

If you find yourself in God's waiting room today, take courage—you are in good company. Almost every hero of faith had to wait. Do not waste the waiting. Let God work in you, so that when the door opens, you are ready to walk into His next adventure with faith, courage, and joy. The waiting room is part of the process, and the next chapter will be worth the wait.

Questions

1. Why is God never in a hurry, and what does that teach us about His timing? (*Isaiah 40:31*)
2. How does waiting test our trust in God's plan rather than our own understanding? (*Proverbs 3:5–6*)
3. What hidden work might God be doing in your life during a waiting season? (*Romans 5:3–4*)
4. What does it mean to wait actively, how can prayer and service shape us while we wait (*Luke 18:1*)
5. How can God's delays be seen as preparation rather than denial? (*Habakkuk 2:3*)