

Wait Training In God's Gym

James 1:2-5 (ESV)

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness (endurance, patience, perseverance).

4 And let steadfastness (endurance, patience, perseverance) have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Waiting! We all hate it...

But why do we hate to wait?

Is it because we are impatient?

Is it possible that we are self-centered and believe we should not have to wait?

Psalms 27:14 (ESV) - Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Richard Hendrix – "Second only to suffering, waiting may be the greatest teacher and trainer in godliness, maturity, and genuine spirituality most of us ever encounter."

John Ascroft – "Delayed gratification is the ability to resist immediate rewards for greater future benefits. Delayed gratification is essential for achieving long-term goals. It fosters self-discipline and resilience in individuals. Delayed gratification happens when you recognize the importance of patience in personal and professional growth. The ability to delay immediate rewards can lead to greater future success. Cultivating this mindset can enhance decision-making and prioritization skills."

We can either do life Our Way or God's Way!

I. What happens when we wait OUR way?

1. We can lose God's perspective!

Eph. 2:4-6 (ESV)

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,

5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

6 and RAISED US UP WITH HIM AND SEATED US WITH HIM IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES in Christ Jesus,

2. We can become very negative!

Proverbs 13:12a (ESV) - "Hope deferred (prolonged) makes the heart sick..."

3. We can produce Ishmaels which can lead to more waiting!

Getting ahead of God can lead to even extended waiting!

G. Campbell Morgan – "Waiting for God is not laziness. Waiting for God is not going to sleep. Waiting for God is not the abandonment of effort. Waiting for God means first, 'activity under command'; second, 'readiness for any new command that may come'; third, 'the ability to do nothing until the command is given.'"

II. What happens when we wait GOD'S way?

1. Waiting God's way produces a fulfilled hope!

Proverbs 13:12 (ESV) - "Hope deferred (prolonged) makes the heart sick, but A DESIRE FULFILLED IS A TREE OF LIFE.

Waiting should be a place of hopeful expectation!

A place for exercising faith!

Psalm 25:3 (ESV) - Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Psalm 25:5 (ESV) - Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

Psalm 25:21 (ESV) - May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.

Psalm 119:114 (ESV) – You are my hiding place (kjv-refuge) and my shield; I hope in (kjv-I wait for) your Word.

Psalm 130:5 (ESV) - I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I hope;

2. Waiting God's way produces an unshakable life!

Psalm 62:1-2 (ESV)

1 For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.
 2 He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

A lot of times the waiting is accompanied by God's silence. Why?

Many times, the silence is simply because God knows he can trust us like He knew He could trust Job!

God's plan for waiting is a combination of BEING STILL and WAITING PATIENTLY!

Psalm 37:7 (ESV) – Be still ("Rest, lean, lie on, support yourself) before (in) the Lord and wait (to look for, to hope, to expect) PATIENTLY for him; fret (worry, have anxiety) not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

The word "Patiently" is the word "khool" in Hebrew

That word "patiently" or Khool" actually carries with it the picture of writhing in pain!

But don't stop expecting even in the middle of the pain!

Meaningful PAIN brings meaningful GAIN!

3. Waiting God's way produces a greater desire for God!

Isaiah 26:8-9 (ESV)

8 In the path of your judgments, O Lord, WE WAIT FOR YOU; your name and remembrance are the DESIRE of our soul.

9 My soul YEARNs FOR YOU in the night; my spirit within me EARNESTLY SEEKS YOU. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of

the world learn righteousness.

4. *Waiting God's way produces a greater trust of His timing!*

Our wait many times, can seem unbearable...UNTIL afterwards!

Two types of time:

1) *Chronos – A space in time like a point on a number line.*

Mt. 2:7 (ESV) - Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what TIME (*Chronos*) the star had appeared.

2) *Kairos - set or proper time, opportunity, due season, due time*

1 Pet. 5:6 (ESV) – Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper TIME (*Kairos*) He may exalt you,

Gal. 6:9 (ESV) – And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season (*Kairos*) we will reap, if we do not give up.

Corrie ten Boom – “Don’t bother to give God instructions; just report for duty.”

Waiting is usually not for PUNISHMENT...

It's mainly for PREPARATION!

What was the last thing God told you to do?

Keep doing that until God tells you to do something different!

How are you doing with your WAIT training?

It's ALWAYS better to wait God's way than our way!