

## Finding Peace While I Wait

Lesson 2 of 4 in the series: "Finding the Missing Peace"

### A. God is working out His plans for each of our lives.

"The Lord will work out his plans for my life—for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever."

Psalm 138:8a (NLT)

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

*Note:* God's plans are NOT the same as ours. "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine." Isaiah 55:8 (NLT)

### B. God is working out His plans for our lives at exactly the right time.

"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every matter under heaven..."

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NASB)

"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up." Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

*Note:* God's understanding of time is NOT the same as ours. "But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day." 2 Peter 3:8 (NLT)

### C. In order to cooperate with God's plan for our lives and His timing, we need to wait.

"The Lord *is* good to those who wait for Him, to the soul *who* seeks Him. *It is* good that *one* should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord." Lamentations 3:25-26 (NKJV)

"...those who wait on 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 (NKJV)

#### 1. All of the heroes of the Bible had to wait on the Lord.

- David had to wait 15 years to become king over Israel.
- Abraham had to wait 25 years before Isaac, the child God had promised him, was born.
- Moses had to wait 40 years to rescue his fellow Israelites from slavery.

#### 2. Waiting on the Lord is often hard and confusing.

"I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!" Psalm 27:13-14 (NKJV)

### D. We can experience God's peace while we wait when we learn to trust Him.

"You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!" Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

*perfect peace* = calm assurance that God is working and that His timing is best

"For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!" Isaiah 64:4 (NLT)

#### 1. God may be making us wait in order to mature us.

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love." Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

#### 2. God may be making us wait in order to protect us.

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people." Genesis 50:20 (NLT)

#### 3. God may be making us wait in order to bless us.

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

## E. Four things we can do that will help us find peace while we wait on God's timing:

1. We can schedule time each day to meet with God and be quiet and still.

"Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes. Stop being angry! Turn from your rage! Do not lose your temper—it only leads to harm." Psalm 37:7-8 (NLT)

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." John 14:27 (NLT)

2. We can stop grumbling and complaining.

"...God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people." Philippians 2:13-15 (NLT)

3. We can sing songs of praise to God Almighty.

"I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord. Oh, the joys of those who trust the Lord, who have no confidence in the proud or in those who worship idols. O Lord my God, you have performed many wonders for us. Your plans for us are too numerous to list. You have no equal. If I tried to recite all your wonderful deeds, I would never come to the end of them." Psalm 40:1-5 (NLT)

4. We can keep doing the last thing the Lord told us to do until He gives us further instructions.

"Put your hope in the Lord. Travel steadily along his path. He will honor you..." Psalm 37:34 (NLT)

JOHN SCHMIDT • 10-17-21 • [john@centeringlives.com](mailto:john@centeringlives.com)

## Connect Group Questions

Read Isaiah 26:3 and then discuss the following questions:

1. Have you ever quit praying for something because you were tired of waiting on God?
2. Have you ever discovered that God was doing more behind the scenes than you realized? What happened?
3. Read Lamentations 3:25-26 & Isaiah 40:31. How does it make you feel to know that David had to wait 15 years to become king over Israel; Abraham had to wait 25 years before Isaac, the child God had promised him, was born; and Moses had to wait 40 years to rescue his fellow Israelites from slavery?
4. Discuss the following reasons God may be making us wait:
  - God may be making us wait in order to mature us. (Romans 5:3-5)
  - God may be making us wait in order to protect us. (Genesis 50:20)
  - God may be making us wait in order to bless us. (Ephesians 3:20)
5. What are you waiting for right now? Share one prayer request with your group.
6. Discuss the following suggestions for finding peace while we wait on God's timing:
  - We can schedule time each day to meet with God and be quiet and still. (Psalm 37:7-9, John 14:27)
  - We can stop grumbling and complaining. (Philippians 2:13-15)
  - We can sing songs of praise to God Almighty. (Psalm 40:1-5)
  - We can keep doing the last thing God told us to do until He gives us further instructions. (Psalm 37:34)
7. Close your meeting by singing a simple chorus of praise together.