

I've Heard That Before

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: When The Wait Feels Long

Devotional

Have you ever asked God, "How much longer?" You are not alone. The disciples asked Jesus the same thing. They had followed Him, watched Him die, and witnessed His resurrection. And still, standing with Him just before His ascension, they wanted to know: is it time yet?

Jesus did not rebuke them for asking. He simply redirected them. The timing belongs to the Father. What He gave them instead was a purpose, a mission, and a promise. That same gift belongs to you today.

Waiting is hard. Especially when you have been waiting your whole life. Many of us grew up hearing about the soon return of Jesus. We sang about it in Sabbath school. We prayed for it at family worship. And yet, here we are. Still waiting.

But here is the encouragement: the wait is not a sign that God has forgotten. It is a sign that He is still at work. His promise has not expired. His faithfulness has not wavered. The same God who kept every promise in Scripture is keeping this one too.

You are not waiting alone. And the One you are waiting for is worth every moment of the wait.

Bible Verse

"He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'" - Acts 1:7-8 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

In what area of your life has the wait felt the longest, and what might God be doing in you during that season?

Quote

"I do believe though, that scriptures will come true. We will be reunited with not only us here, but our loved ones as well, who've fallen asleep. I long for that day. But until then, let's press forward with courage."

Prayer

Lord, when the wait feels heavy, remind me that Your timing is perfect and Your promises are sure. Help me to trust You even when I cannot see the full picture. Amen.

Day 2: God Is Not Slow, He Is Patient

Devotional

It is easy to misread silence as absence. When the promise of Jesus' return seems delayed, doubt can creep in. Even in the early church, scoffers were already mocking believers, asking where this promised return was.

Peter's answer is both honest and beautiful. God is not slow. He is patient. He is holding space, giving more people the opportunity to hear the story, to turn toward Him, and to be saved.

Think about that for a moment. The very thing that can feel like a delay is actually an expression of God's love. He is not dragging His feet. He is extending His grace. Every day that passes is another day someone, somewhere, has the chance to come home to Him.

This reframes everything. The wait is not a broken promise. It is a patient God doing what He has always done, pursuing people with relentless love.

For those of us who have been in the church a long time, this is a reminder that our faith is not just about holding on until Jesus comes. It is about joining God in His mission while we wait. There are still people who need to hear. There are still hearts that need to be reached. And God, in His patience, is giving us time to be part of that work.

Bible Verse

"The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." - 2 Peter 3:9 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

How does understanding God's patience as an act of love change the way you think about the time that has passed since Jesus ascended?

Quote

"God isn't being slow. He's not being forgetful. Ultimately, he's being patient. He is waiting so that more people have time to hear the story and seek Him."

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your patience, not just with the world, but with me. Help me to see the wait as an invitation to join You in reaching others with Your love. Amen.

Day 3: What You Do While You Wait Matters

Devotional

A farmer does not plant seeds and then sit inside wondering if the rain will come. He tends the soil. He watches the sky. He trusts the process. And he keeps working, because the harvest is coming whether he worries about it or not.

James uses this image to describe how believers should live while waiting for Jesus to return. Not anxiously. Not passively. But faithfully and actively, doing the work that is right in front of us.

This is one of the most practical truths about the Christian life. The length of the wait is not what defines us. What defines us is what we do during it. Are we growing in our relationship with God? Are we serving others? Are we living in a way that reflects the One we are waiting for?

God has already given us everything we need. Salvation is not a future gift we are still hoping to receive. It has already been given. The promise is already signed. What we are waiting for is the moment when everything is made complete.

So while we wait, let us not stand idle. Let us read, worship, serve, and love. Let us be the kind of people who look like Jesus to a world that desperately needs to see Him.

Bible Verse

"Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near." - James 5:7-8 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

If you knew Jesus was returning in one year, what would you do differently in how you spend your time, your energy, and your relationships?

Quote

"The length of our weight is not as important as what we're doing while we wait. Often the psychology of queuing is more important than the statistics of the weight itself."

Prayer

Jesus, help me to be faithful in the everyday moments while I wait for Your return. May the way I live point others toward You. Amen.

Day 4: Lead With Love, Not Arguments

Devotional

Not everyone around us shares our hope. Some people push back on faith. Some mock the idea of Jesus returning. And it can be tempting to respond with frustration, to defend the truth loudly, or to win the argument at all costs.

But wisdom calls us to a different approach. Paul reminded Timothy that a servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome. Instead, we are called to be kind, patient, and gentle, even with those who disagree.

This does not mean we stay silent about what we believe. It means we choose how we engage. Character speaks louder than arguments. When someone is being difficult or provocative, a calm and loving response often does more than any debate ever could.

Think about the people in your life who helped shape your faith. Chances are, it was not someone who out-argued you. It was someone who loved you well, asked good questions, and lived in a way that made you want what they had.

That is the kind of witness we are called to be. Not perfect. Not always having the right answer. But humble, loving, and genuinely interested in the people around us. That is how we reflect the patience of a God who is still reaching out to a world He loves.

Bible Verse

"And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth." - 2 Timothy 2:24-25 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

Think of a relationship where tension or disagreement exists. Are you approaching it with a desire to win, or with a genuine desire to understand and love that person well?

Quote

"As followers of Jesus, we lead with love, we lead with humility, ask earnest questions."

Prayer

Lord, give me the humility to lead with love and the wisdom to know when to speak and when to simply reflect Your grace. Amen.

Day 5: Pause, Pray, and Trust His Timing

Devotional

We live in a world that rewards fast responses. Quick replies, instant decisions, immediate reactions. But some of the most important moments in our lives call for something different. They call for stillness.

One of the most practical habits you can build as a believer is what might be called the 24-hour hold. When a conflict arises, when a decision feels urgent, when emotions are running high, pause. Pray. Give God 24 hours before you react. Invite Him into the situation before you respond.

This is not about avoiding hard conversations. It is about making sure that when you do respond, it is wisdom speaking and not just emotion. Anger rarely leads anywhere good. But a response shaped by prayer and patience can change everything.

This practice connects directly to the bigger theme of trusting God's timing. If we believe He is in control of the grand story of history, including the return of Jesus, then surely we can trust Him with the smaller stories of our daily lives too.

Where are you rushing right now? Where are you trying to fix something in your own strength instead of waiting on God? His timing is not always our timing. But His timing is always right. Rest in that today.

Bible Verse

"Where do you want us to go?" - Acts 1:6 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

Where are you impatient in your life right now, and what would it look like to genuinely surrender that situation to God's timing instead of your own?

Quote

"Where are you impatient in your life and relying on yourself instead of trusting in God's timing?"

Prayer

Father, teach me to pause before I react and to pray before I decide. Help me to trust that Your timing is better than my urgency. Amen.

Day 5: Title

Devotional