

God's Waiting Room

"Now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But wait here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven" (Luke 24:49 – New Living Translation). "And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father (the Holy Spirit)" (Acts 1:4). There is no wiser or better thing to do, on the eve of a 'season of supernatural intervention', than to wait upon the Lord. In Psalm 130:5 the psalmist says, "I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in His word I put my hope." We need to wait for the Lord with an expectant heart, an open mind and a willingness of spirit - to hear what He has to say. Times of waiting are important if we are going to 'listen' to the Master's voice. Many of us are so busy we could never make out what He is saying! Yet, the Lord wants us to "perceive" what He is saying (so that we can respond accordingly). More than any other undertaking, "waiting on God" can develop our ability to hear from Him. The psalmist knew this principle ... "Lord, I wait for you; you will answer, Lord my God" (Psalm 38:15).

Not only will the Lord answer you clearly, He will also 'empower' you! When Jesus appeared to the disciples after His resurrection He said, "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" (Acts 1:7-8). The key to them receiving power was mentioned earlier, in verse 4... "Do not depart from Jerusalem but wait for the Promise of the Father (the Holy Spirit)." The 120 who were gathered together in the upper room, had to wait for ten days before "power" was released from on high!

One of the most important things we can do is to learn to wait on the Lord. Most of us have great difficulty waiting for anything! Yet, if you want to flow in the supernatural (with the Spirit of God), it is often necessary to wait for long periods of time. Waiting shows maturity and the Holy Spirit only empowers those whom He can trust. Waiting gives us enough time to examine ourselves and accept our own failings and weaknesses. This in turn, invites the Holy Spirit's power to come, inasmuch as His power manifests in humble vessels who recognise their frailties. "When I'm weak, yet I'm at my strongest in Christ!" (2 Corinthians 12:10)

Since the beginning of time man has been striving to obtain power. The absence of power, or the abundance of power, has always been detrimental to man because it was power that never originated from God. People around the world are dabbling with sources of power that belong to the devil, but they are no match to the true Power of Heaven. God gave the first Adam power and dominion over every created thing, but Adam later forfeited this through his failure to obey God. However, Jesus (the Second Adam), through His death and resurrection, snatched that power back and is now restoring it to its original owners - the children of God. That's you and me!

Jesus demonstrated tremendous supernatural power through the miraculous exploits He did among the people. John in his Gospel says, "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" (John 21:25). These mighty acts and deeds of power which the disciples had seen Jesus do, they would now be able to do because the same source of divine power was available to them. That is, the Holy Spirit.

In **John 14:12** Jesus boldly declares, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, He who believes on Me, the works that I do he shall do also, and even greater works than these he shall do, because I go to My Father.”*

Note, the disciples would not be able to do these things just because they had ‘seen’ Jesus do them. They needed to wait, so that they could be empowered from heaven. They had to wait in order to “receive” the Power of the Spirit of God. Waiting was an absolute necessity! From the period when these disciples had witnessed Jesus performing miracles, to when they themselves had received the Holy Spirit (and power), was a considerable length of time. During that time they went through many tests, trials and hardships. Even seeing Jesus being crucified! Maybe **Psalm 27:14** came to mind... *“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.”* Waiting for the Lord can bring you power from heaven!

However, there are many of you who are probably in God’s waiting room right now, and you cannot see yourself receiving “power” from heaven. Like Job, you are only there because you desire to hear from God. And it is hard waiting! Therefore, you need to know how to deal with this unnatural situation. You need to know what to do, what to expect, and how to react? .

With this in mind, here are answers to three important questions:

- (1) What is the waiting room like?
- (2) What should you be doing in the waiting room?
- (3) What can you discover in the waiting room?

1. WHAT IS THE WAITING ROOM LIKE?

- You can’t see what is going on. Faith is – believing God is at work even when we can’t see His hand doing it.
- You don’t understand what is going on. It doesn’t necessarily mean that you are not spiritual or that something is terribly wrong, although that may be the case with some. God often chooses not to explain the "whys" in the waiting room. After all, He is God!
- You can’t control what is going on. No circumstance is ever out of the bounds of God’s control. He often permits us to be in situations that require us to look to Him and depend on Him alone. Self-sufficiency is an enemy of faith.

And remember this....

- The waiting room is a place of delays. Many delays, for extended periods. However, we must remember that God is never late. God’s greatest work in and through you may be "very soon."
- The waiting room is not a very comfortable place. The greatest truths in life are often learned in the difficult and dark places.
- The waiting room is often a place of anxiety. "Worry" is convinced that God does not care or is not able. But with God all things are possible!

2. WHAT SHOULD YOU BE DOING IN THE WAITING ROOM?

When Job was in the waiting room, God gave him specific directions:

- Trust. Trust the one who is in charge! **Job 13:15**, *"Though the Lord slay me, still will I trust Him."*
- Stay close. **Job 42:5**, *"I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear: but now my eye sees you."* Don't desert the waiting room. That is where you are most likely to "see" God.
- Pray. God does not do His deepest work in the shallowest part of our lives. Prayerfully get alone with God for a time of reflection, evaluation, correction, and dedication (**Job 42:1-5**).
- Be still. **Psalm 46:10**, *"Be still and know that I am God."* Literally, "Let your hands hang down." You are itching to do something – aren't you? But God may need to do something in you before He does something special for you (or through you).

3. WHAT CAN YOU DISCOVER IN THE WAITING ROOM?

- A New Perspective. *"And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words to Job..."* God gave Job a new perspective of life, one he would never have had if he had abandoned the waiting room.
- A New Provision. **Job 42:10**, *"And the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before..."* Note also, in God's waiting room Paul found *Joy (Philippians 1:4)*, *Purpose (Philippians 3:14)*, *Peace (Philippians 4:7)*, *Power (Philippians 4:13)*, and *Plenty (Philippians 4:19)*.
- A New Proximity. (Nearness to God). **Job 42:5**, *"...But now my eye sees you..."* The difficulties of the waiting room drove Job to the very feet of God where he discovered a new nearness, a new intimacy, a new dimension of his relationship with the Lord that he would never have known otherwise.

If you find yourself in God's waiting room... Trust Him, Stay Close, Pray, Be Still, and get ready for some wonderful Discoveries. Right now, make up your mind that you aren't going to break the door down and try to escape! Make up your mind that you will wait as long as it takes for God to open the door and usher you out.

This can happen one of three ways; (1) you will hear clearly what He wants you to do, (2) you will see clearly what God has already done, and (3) you will be "empowered" by the Holy Spirit to go and change the situation. All these are supernatural ways through which God releases you from the Waiting Room.

So do not imagine for a single moment that God has abandoned you!

- Let Him do His work.
- Get into His Word.
- Seek His face.
- Tell Him all that's in your heart.
- Cast yourself and your cares on Him.
- Trust Him - maybe like never before.
- Remind yourself every day of His character.
- Review His promises.
- Keep a close watch for what He is about to do.

- Make yourself available to Him (all the time).

The Lord loves you more than you can ever comprehend!

“Wait in hope for the Lord; for He is your help and your shield” (Psalm 33:20).