

## WAITING

"Pastor, I seem to always be waiting on God. Is this ok?" In Proverbs 8:34-35 the Lord says, **"Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favour from God."** Notice that those who wait patiently for the Lord are blessed and obtain favour from God. So don't allow yourself to feel that waiting on God is a waste of time! And remember, faith in God means faith in His timing! Life is not an exact science except for the Creator. He may be late, but in fact, He's always on time. He may ask you to wait but there's always a 'blessing' - a reward for your patience awaiting you.

You often find the phrase, "wait patiently" in the Bible and I believe this is for a good reason. Waiting impatiently, or in unbelief, will not benefit you in any way. You must learn to be patient, and wait! Patience is a sign of maturity and it expresses your trust in God. From this we can see how important it is to exercise patience. Your faith cannot produce blessings if you do not have the capacity to wait on God. Galatians 6:9 says, **"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."** Here are two things that I would like to highlight in this verse: (1) There is a season for reaping the rewards of your patient endurance. (2) There is a condition attached to receiving such reward, and that is, not to lose heart! So many times I've seen Christians lose heart or get discouraged because they have not waited for the appointed season to arrive. You must anticipate the God-appointed season of reward and blessing!

James encourages us to, **"Be patient."** Then he tells us to observe how a farmer waits for his crop to grow through specific seasons... **"See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient"** (James 5:7-8). God wants to nourish your faith so that it may produce much fruit. And only He knows when and how to water it. Therefore, you must trust in His timing and wait patiently for your reward. If you are not prepared to wait for the early and latter rain (the God appointed seasons) you cannot receive the precious fruit of your faith! Twice in these verses we find mention of both 'patience' and 'waiting', and I'm sure this is because James wants to make it clear to us that the two go hand in hand.

If you are waiting on God today, start to rejoice because only He has the authority to set the seasons and only He has the power to bring about the right fruit. Therefore, if everything is under His control, all you need to do is wait! And while waiting, start to *'thank'* Him for the previous crop your faith is in the process of producing. Remember, at the appointed time (God's timing) you WILL receive your abundant reward. Hallelujah!