

Patience

Opener: What's the longest you've waited for something you really wanted?

Scripture

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. ¹⁴Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. Psalm 27:13-14

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." John 13:7

Patience brings peace. Proverbs 15:18b

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; it is not arrogant. 1 Corinthians 13:4

But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:25

You also must be patient. Keep your hopes high, for the day of the Lord's coming is near. James 5:8

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Psalm 37:7

Discussion Questions

1. David had been anointed king, but Saul was still on the throne and had no intention of stepping aside. Not only that, Saul had decided that Jonathan, his son, would be his successor. So now David waited. It would be 14 years before he was king of Judah and 7 more until he became Israel's king. In Psalm 27:14 David tells us to wait on the Lord. What does patience have to do with waiting on the Lord? Examples?
2. In Psalm 27:13 David says he "will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." What do you think he's referring to and why would that help him be patient while waiting? How has believing that the Lord is good helped you patiently wait on Him? John 13:7
3. We often think that waiting is passive resignation, but it's not. It's active belief and anticipation that demands courage. How does God use waiting to change us? When have difficult times strengthened your relationship with the Lord? Proverbs 15:18b; 1 Corinthians 13:4
4. How is waiting on the Lord both the opposite of running ahead and the opposite of bailing out on the Lord? When has your faith in His timing been challenged? What did you learn? Romans 8:25; James 5:8
5. David's life was not trouble free and neither is ours. Through it all, David learned to trust in God. Can patience coexist with complaining and anger? What might we have to surrender in order to wait patiently even when it seems like God isn't going to come through for us? Romans 8:25; Psalm 37:7
6. In your experience, what's the secret to being patient?

Wrap Up: Waiting on the Lord doesn't mean the tedious waiting we often associate with waiting in lines or in waiting rooms. It's never the mind-numbing waiting that serves no purpose, nor is it the spiritual equivalent of twiddling our thumbs. Waiting for God is an active process where we wait with tip-toe expectancy, hoping and expecting God to act at any moment. David knew from experience what it meant to wait for the Lord. It took many years for him to become king after he was anointed by Samuel, and he spent much of that time running for his life from King Saul. That's when David learned first-hand that God could be trusted. And that's what Psalm 27 is all about.