



WHEN SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS . . .

WORSHIP: Trust His Heart/ All Things are Possible/ Count Your Blessings/ While I'm Waiting (from Fireproof)

WELCOME: How long is your waiting time?

Imagine yourself in the following situations, then write down how long is your waiting time before you do something.

1. Waiting in line at Starbucks. How long do you wait before you decide to go somewhere else?
2. Waiting to be picked up. You and your spouse made an arrangement that he/she would pick you up after work. How long do you wait before you call/text?
3. In a restaurant. How long do you wait before calling the waiter to follow up your order?

WORD:

*I will stand on my guard post
And station myself on the rampart;
And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me,
And how I may reply ^[a] when I am reproved.
Habakkuk 2:1*

Habakkuk was a minor prophet during the reign of King Jehoiakim, whose reign was marked with violence, injustice, treachery and bloodshed because he did not follow the ways of the Lord.

- In Chapter 1, we see Habakkuk complaining to God of how bad the situation was.
- Often times we too find ourselves complaining to God about our situations in life. We cry out to the Lord about pains, injustices and sufferings only to feel as if our prayers are not heard.
- Verse 5 – 11 is God's answer to Habakkuk. And to Habakkuk, God's answer did not seem to make sense.
- We too have found ourselves in similar situations. Perhaps you had prayed for healing for someone and their health made a turn for the worse. Perhaps you pray for financial blessings and noticed that the situation has seemed to have worsened since you started tithing. Or perhaps you pray for your business, but noticed that it has begun to suffer after you started attending bible study. Whatever situation we may be in, we find ourselves complaining to God when things don't seem to be going our way.

Waiting Patiently.

In Habakkuk chapter 2, we find Habakkuk standing at the rampart waiting for God's answer.

- Intimacy with God is not a quick fix solution to our problems. Intimacy with God means to wait patiently on God.
- Waiting on the Lord requires time and patience. It takes more than 5 minutes, or 1 hour. In this fast paced world, we have to learn to be still and wait on God. To spend time with God so that we begin to understand His heartbeat. To be constantly in His presence.
- We need to be still and know that He is God (Ps 46:10). . . and when we let go and let God work, we begin to understand His plan for us.

Waiting patient but Waiting Expectantly.

Like Habakkuk, we should learn to wait not only patiently but expectantly.

- That means that when we wait, we expect God to do something.
Why? Because our God is real.
What does that mean? Our God is not blind or deaf. He is not limited and powerless.
Our God is real. He is able to do far more abundantly than we ask or think. (Eph 3:20)

Waiting for the RHEMA.

What is RHEMA?

There are 2 Greek words used to pertain to God's word. *Logos* which literally means word of God and *Rhema* which means God's spoken word. For example in the verse Jesus wept. (Jn 11:35). The *logos* is the verse Jesus wept. *Rhema* is understanding that Jesus wept because He understands our emotions. He understands hurt and pain.

- God wants us to take note of His revelations in our hearts, as He asked Habakkuk to take note of His revelations to him. This shows us that God wants to share His secrets with us. (Deut 29:29)
- As we patiently and expectantly wait for God's spoken word to us, we begin to capture God's desires in our hearts.
- The more intimate we become with God, the more we delight in the Lord. The more we delight in the Lord, the more we know and understand His heartbeat. And when we continue in delighting in our Lord, God's desires become the desires of our heart.

In Habakkuk 3, we are encouraged to remember the past – to forget ourselves and concentrate on God's goodness in our lives. We are admonished to:

Resolve to praise and worship God . . . even in the midst of pain and confusion

Renew our faith . . . despite and in spite of the difficulties, we must remember that our God is sovereign. We renew our faith every morning. (Lamentations 3)

Discussion:

1. Have you ever complained to God? Can you resonate with Habakkuk's complaints to the Lord?
2. Do you have unanswered prayers? How difficult is it to wait patiently on the Lord?

WORKS:

What is Expectant Faith? Expectant Faith means to:

1. Trusting in God's character – who God is and what His plans are for us
2. Trusting in God's word – trusting in God's promises and in His message for us
3. Trusting in God's timing – understanding that God is never too early or too late, but rather He is always on time

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In your Journal, answer these questions:

What does that Expectant Faith mean to you as you continue to pursue intimacy with God?

What is God asking you to do as you patiently and expectantly wait for His answers in your life?

What are the things that have become hindrances to you that have made you unable to wait on God.

The Lord has a unique plan for our lives, one that does not change according to our circumstances. He allows disappointments to occur so that we will learn to rely on Him fully – to walk by faith and not by sight. But we should always remember that while disappointments are inevitable, discouragement is a choice. We should not allow challenges to steal our enthusiasm or confidence in Him. God holds our futures in His hands. We won't lose anything by looking forward to what He has in store for us

Life Principles by Charles Stanley

I'm waiting
 I'm waiting on You, Lord
 And I am hopeful
 I'm waiting on You, Lord
 Though it is painful
 But patiently, I will wait
 I will move ahead, bold and confident
 Taking every step in obedience
 While I'm waiting
 I will serve You
 While I'm waiting
 I will worship
 While I'm waiting
 I will not faint
 I'll be running the race
 Even while I wait

While I'm waiting , John Waller
 From the movie Fireproof

What do we commit to do as we continue to wait on the Lord? Are we hopeful even though it is painful? Will we move ahead bold and confident, taking every step in obedience? Will we continue to serve? To worship? To run the race and finish well. . . even when God says No.

Waiting on God like pursuing intimacy with God is a moment by moment, day by day intentional conscious effort on our part. When we surrendered our lives to Jesus and accepted Him as our Lord and Savior, we asked Him to take control of our lives. Are we really letting Him take full control?

Write a love letter to God. Like Habakkuk, pour out your complains and worries, pour out your heart. After that seek the Lord's presence, ask Him to teach you how to delight in Him, so that our hearts will be aligned to God's heart. End your letter in thanksgiving and worship as we continue to renew our faith in God.

Let us continue to pray with each other and for each other, that we remain steadfast and undistracted as we continue to pursue intimacy with God.