

# Sunday Service

23rd June 2024

## Topic: Waiting and Winning

**Text: Act 1:4-8** - *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; [5] for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." [6] Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" [7] And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. [8] But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (NKJV)*

## INTRODUCTION

Waiting is part of life. Everyone, irrespective of their beliefs and identity, has a season of waiting; there is no escape from it. We all have a waiting period, though it may be in different dimensions and spheres of life such as academic, marital, financial, career, and so many others. But contrary to popular belief, waiting is not wrong neither is it a stigma. It is part of the process God has put in place to help a man.

- ***"Everyone has a period of waiting but with different patterns and timeframe."***

The first wisdom you should hold onto in this teaching is never to be caught unprepared in your season of waiting. One of the things we have come to understand and by the word of the Lord is that people who come out strong and win in the season of waiting are men and women who have prepared based on the prior knowledge of the above-stated fact. Therefore, it is paramount for you to prepare for your season of waiting.

Do you know that you can't deliver a baby the moment a pregnancy has been conceived? It is a must for you to wait because it has been orchestrated and planned that waiting is part of the process.

- ***"Unfortunately, many of us don't want to wait, we always want to win. As good as winning is, waiting is also important."***

From Genesis to Revelation, we have seen the pattern of waiting reoccur as a process in life. In the story of creation, there was a moment of waiting and watching the earth unformed before the proclamation of existence by God. In other words, God waited. Noah was someone who also waited. In fact, I discovered that Noah built the ark for 120 years, stayed in the ark for 40 days of rain and remained in it for another year after the rain. What a consistent pattern of waiting.

Have you received a promise from God and you feel like giving up because it is delayed? I come to tell you, don't give up. It will come to pass. One of the things I have taught many repeatedly is that if you don't have a period of waiting in any sphere of your life, then you are a misfit.

- ***"One important thing you must do in your season of waiting is not to lose focus on your promises because the devil promise on this to discourage you."***

Joseph waited for 13 years. He had a vision when he was 17 years old but didn't see the fulfilment until he was 30 years old. He had 13 solid years of waiting and going through different experiences of making. David was another person who waited. He was anointed at the age of 17 but unfortunately encountered several problems which caused him to spend 13 years in the cave of Adullam.

It was after the cave experience of waiting and never abusing his anointing that God brought David to a new level. Do you remember Ruth, Esther, Hannah? All of these people went through a time of waiting and got a huge reward eventually.

- ***"Waiting is not to kill you, it is to make you"***

## 3 Effects Of Waiting In Our Lives

### 1. Waiting tests our Loyalty to God

#### Job 13:15

"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him." (NKJV)

Job was affirming the mystery of remaining faithfully to God despite the challenges of the waiting period. If the time of your waiting period comes, it is a test of your loyalty to God. The waiting period is to ascertain your love for God. Unfortunately, several people have backslid because of their waiting period. If they had had a comprehensive knowledge that what God doesn't give, no devil can give it without taking your soul then they leave God aside in their period of waiting.

You visited a place, got a concussion to drink and you think you have won? That's the beginning of defeat. My question to you now is, are you loyal to God? When you are waiting for that job, result, husband, or money to come, are you loyal to your Master?

## 2. Waiting is a test of our Character

### Romans 5:3-4

*"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; [4] and perseverance, character; and character, hope." (NKJV)*

The period of waiting builds character formation. It checks if you will stand in a time when you are given the easy option to go against your identity as a believer. The waiting period combines both an increased trust in God and character building. Character formation is part of the process that waiting brings into our lives.

## 3. It prepares us for purpose fulfilment

### James 1:4

*"But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." (NKJV)*

## CAUSES OF WAITING

### 1. Natural Induced Waiting

#### Ecclesiastes 9:11-12

*"I returned and saw under the sun that-- The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all. [12] For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net, Like birds*

*caught in a snare, So the sons of men are snared in an evil time, When it falls suddenly upon them."*  
(NKJV)

You will discover that there are seasons for everything. During my time as a fellowship executive, I and the other executives usually make a terrible mistake by fixing our outreaches during the rainy season. We will then start seven days of fasting and prayer to prevent the rain from falling. What an abuse of power. There are other times we could have fixed the outreaches. So please come to an understanding that there is naturally induced waiting and in such that there is no other option than for you to wait. A pregnant woman must wait. If you start a four-year degree in the university, you have no other option than to go through the four years. Even when you have carryovers, it is a must for you to go through all the courses.

If you want to travel out of the country, there are some processes you must go through. A natural period of waiting. So when it is natural, Enjoy it. Embrace it and wait until that time is over.

## 2. Man-Induced Waiting

**Ecclesiastes 7:29**

*"Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes."*  
(NKJV)

*"But I did find this: God created people to be virtuous, **but they have each turned to follow their own downward path.**"* (NLT)

Most times, many people experience waiting not as a result of the dealings of God or the devil, but as a result of their very own actions. As a young, beautiful lady, you ridicule every brother who walks up to you in the fellowship, yet you are on your knees every day praying for the right partner. Unfortunately, you have met the right one but you gave yourself unnecessary delay because of pride and your unrealistic wants in a person.

Be careful of what you do with your life. Sometimes, it is not God or the devil; you are the one who created the problem with your unhealthy choices.

May the Lord give you grace. Whatever you can do not to bring waiting upon yourself, please do it.

## 3. Satan Induced Waiting

**Luke 13:16**

*"So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound--think of it--for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" (NKJV)*

The background story of this scripture shows a woman who was bent due to her infirmity, and upon her contact with Jesus, she was healed with this statement from Him, **"Woman thou art loosed from thine infirmity."** You need discernment to know if you are the one causing your delay, if it is natural or if it is the devil. If after you received a revelation from God that it is the devil, rise and cast it. The Bible says, **"Resist the devil and he would flee."** Jesus Christ raised Lazarus from the dead with a shout because He had the revelation that the cause was from devil. Likewise, when you realize that it is the devil, you must wage war with everything you got. If you don't rebuke the devil, he will use the opportunity to finish you.

#### 4. God Induced Waiting

##### John 9:1-3

*"Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. [2] And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" [3] Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him." (NKJV)*

Jesus and his disciples were going and they came across a man who was born blind. Before Jesus healed him, his response to the disciples' question shows us that there are some dimensions of waiting you will experience so that God alone can take the glory.

One of the peculiarities of God induced is that in as much it is for His glorification, it can be terminated through the hand of mercy.

##### Romans 9:15-16

*For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." [16] So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. (NKJV)*

There is something the Lord cannot his back on, it is the language of Mercy. Bartimaeus understood this, and with a shout, he said, "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me." Jesus had to stop and address his situation despite the large crowd with him. There is nothing mercy cannot resolve.

I declare that waiting situation and that long delayed prophecy let it be terminated by mercy terminate now.

***However, it takes discernment to identify each of these causes of waiting.*** This is why your walk with God must grow to a level where you have the discerning spirit to pick the cause of every waiting you encounter. Is it natural, man-induced, satanic, or God induced? You must grow your maturity with God to be able to pick which one is causing your waiting.

**A principle that can also help you win during waiting irrespective of the cause is:  
Have the right company**

#### **Acts 1:4**

***And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; (NKJV)***

One of the ways to win waiting is that you don't abandon the gathering of correct people. Notice that Jesus was assembled with the disciples, giving them instructions as they were about to commence a period of waiting.

***"In winning in life, the first person you have with you is God and after that people who are firelighters."***

As a human being, during your waiting period there will be a point where your strength will go down. You need people then to light you up. The Bible says iron sharpeneth iron. But let Jesus be with you first because He is the driver of your victory. Strife that nothing will ever take His presence from you because without Him, you become a loser.

Nothing should take Jesus from your life so that when you are waiting, you are waiting with Him. If that delay cannot conquer Jesus then it cannot conquer you. But beyond that, who you relate with matters a lot. They are the ones who light you up.

***I pray for you every negative association that is not allowing you to overcome your waiting period, I command separation right now in the name of Jesus. Your waiting period will not defeat you.***

