

Prayer: Holding Pattern

From time to time the Lord waits upon us.

Don't lose heart

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" - Luke 18:1-8

Don't break the habit

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God reacts to our persistence

"We should pray like a salesman with his foot wedged in the door opening, like a wrestler who has his opponent in a head lock and won't let go." – Philip Yancey

From time to time we wait upon the Lord.

To strengthen our faith

Dedication

No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause. ⁴ Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. ⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. - Psalm 25:3-5

Dependence

²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. - Isaiah 40:28-31

To strengthen our future

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. . . . For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land. . . . Hope in the LORD and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are destroyed, you will see it. - Psalm 37:7, 9, 34

To add to His fame

¹ I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. ² He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD AND put their trust in him. - Psalm 40:1-3

“To us, waiting is wasting. To God waiting is working.” - Louie Giglio

We respond to God with patience.

God waits on us because He responds to our persistence.

We wait upon God by responding to Him with patience.

“Most important, when we pray persistently we get to be with God. What happens to us while we pray is at least as important as the thing we pray for. The praying is often better than the thing asked. I think that is the answer to the question that was often in my mind as a young man: Why precisely His love that makes me wait and keep coming to Him. He is more precious than anything I desire.” - Ben Patterson

Application

- 1. Do you find it easier to be persistent or to persevere in prayer?**
- 2. What does your habit of prayer look like? Time commitment? Focus?**
- 3. Are you more dependent on Jesus today than 5 years ago? Last year? Yesterday?**
- 4. Do you add to God’s fame through the way that you handle prayer and waiting on God? How?**
- 5. Is God waiting on you today? What is He waiting on?**