
Pursuing His Presence

Waiting on God

Did you know that God longs for you, with greater intensity than you long for Him? Can you hear the yearning of God's heart? Can you hear the echo from heaven? *Draw near. I want to commune with you. To spend time with you. I want to share my heart with you. To show you great and incredible things which you don't yet know! To love you.*

Have you realised that it is us, not God, who determine our level of intimacy with Him?

"Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore, He will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him!" Isaiah 30:18

It's not even meaning to just wait for God to answer me in a few days or weeks. Isaiah is saying that 'waiting' is a proactive stance of drawing close to God.

Isaiah knew there was strength and joy to be found in the waiting, exercising quietness and trust. We have nothing to say to God that can't ultimately be summed up in our expression of thank you.

Why are we so bad at waiting?

Why is it so hard to lay aside our busy care and endless effort and noise-making, and simply allow God to act, Holy Spirit to move and Jesus to draw near?

In James 4:7-10 we see five clues as to why it can be hard to enter into or wait in God's presence... why our attention gets diverted... why we feel uncomfortable at times... why we might be in a hurry to get to the next thing!

- + Submitting to God as Lord
- + Resisting the devil and the world
- + Washing our hands and purifying our hearts
- + Grieving for our sins
- + Humbling ourselves before the Lord

Pressing in through worship, in reflection, in meditation – is intentionally leaving room for the Holy Spirit to move. We turn our hearts to perceive Him, welcome Him, to request Holy Spirit be ever more manifest among us.

As we wait on our Almighty God, we are open to a revelation of Him, of more of Him, we are effectively surrendering our agenda, our posture, our all to Him.

Waiting in Worship

Can you sing these words if you had an audience of only one – Jesus?

I close my eyes to see
My King in majesty
Your grace compels my soul
To love and drawing close
And I lift my hands and sing
Surrender everything
In You I know I'm found
My God, to You I'll bow

Now until forever
Jesus, I surrender
Show me what I don't know
More of You
I'm desperate for Your presence
Longing to be with You
Lead me to a new place
More of You

Through the fire, I'll persevere
I won't submit to anything
Where I'll go you've been before
And all my trust is in You Lord

Now until forever
Jesus, I surrender
Show me what I don't know
More of You
I'm desperate for Your presence
Longing to be with You
Lead me to a new place
More of You

Lead me to You
Forever, Lord, I will pursue
I will pursue
You've won my heart
Jesus, You're all that I want
All that I want

Lead me to You
Forever, Lord, I will pursue
I will pursue
You've won my heart
Jesus, You're all that I want
All that I want

Lead me to You
Forever, Lord, I will pursue
I will pursue
You've won my heart
Jesus, You're all that I want
All that I want

All I need is You
All I need is You Lord
Is You Lord

Open my eyes
Let me know more of Your love
More of Your love
Here I will wait
Just for a glimpse of You, God
I'll wait for You God

God is not a switch we turn on or off. He is someone we are in relationship with, who longs to spend time with us.

How hungry are you to spend time with God?

How patient are you to wait in His presence for what He may want to say or reveal to you?

Discussion Questions

1. What does the Bible say about waiting on God? Discuss the verses provided and share other verses that speak to you about waiting on God, being still, finding rest in His presence.

2 Chronicles 5:13-14; Psalm 27:8; Psalm 46:10; Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 84:1-2; Luke 10:38-40; Hebrews 10:19-22

2. What does Waiting on God, look like in my life, worship, world?

"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." Psalm 27:14 (NIV)

3. What do I need to do, so I can be still and wait on God? What competes with my ability to be still (What thoughts? What distractions? What people? What environment? What judgements or preferences or position?)

4. What are the benefits of waiting on God and making room for Holy Spirit?

5. What do you do when you find yourself in a “wilderness” time, when you desperately need to hear Gods voice, feel His presence, but can’t seem to find them?

If you find yourself in a wilderness now, get alone in a quiet place and explore asking God these questions:

- + Lord, is there something you want to show me about Your character through this?

- + How can I love you more deeply and become more like You in this process?

- + How can I bring You glory in this situation?

- + Is there anything that needs changing in my life or anything you want to teach me?

- + How can you use this experience to help someone else?