

WAITING WITH PATIENCE AND EXPECTATION

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength: they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

I waited patiently upon the Lord: he bent down to me and heard my cry. Psalm 40:1

But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Micah 7:7

Nature often has such a compelling way of teaching us how to wait . . . to wait with patience and with expectation.

Outside in the corner of our garage, we had a bird's nest where robins had nested year after year. Our daughters were fascinated by the birds sitting on the nest and could hardly wait for the babies to be born. Every day they would check. "Mommy, why is it taking so long?" "We just have to wait." I sadly said. In the pond behind our back yard, the ducks provided another one of nature's lessons. Even though we could not see the nest, oh, the excitement around our house when one day we looked out and saw a mother duck followed by a whole string of babies floating on the pond.

It's so hard to wait. And in these long days as we wait for the pandemic and the social unrest--our darkest hours--to finally come to an end, we are becoming restless. We feel we simply cannot wait any longer for change to come.

However, maybe God is wanting us to wait, because when we are waiting, we become vulnerable and more open to the Holy Spirit who is slowly changing us, forming us into new people, and helping us to grow.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; yes, wait patiently for the Lord!
Psalm 27:14

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in God's word I hope. My soul waits for the Lord.
Psalm 130:5

For God alone, my soul waits in silence, truly my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken . . . Trust in God at all times, O people. pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Psalm 62:5-8

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly. Lamentations 3:25

Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you; he will rise up to show mercy to you. Blessed are those who wait for him.
Isaiah 30:18

But it is so hard to wait! The words of Scripture remind us that God's time is not our time. God's plans for us, will be revealed when we wait patiently and with hope in our hearts.

To wait and to hope. God *is* answering our prayers. He is slowly and quietly working in us and changing us as we wait. Could it be that God is working miracles in us as we wait?

God hears our every prayer. God knows us through and through. Yes, God is working a miracle in our lives as we wait with patience and in hope.

And just as our young daughters were learning to wait because they knew something special was going to happen--baby birds and baby ducklings would soon be coming--we need to learn to live with expectation. Soon, something is going to happen.

These dark days *will* be over. When, we don't know. However, we can know and trust that our lives are being molded and changed by a loving God who wants only the best for us.

What is needed is trust. We wait in hope because we know something is happening. And even though we are becoming restless and impatient, we can know that while God's work in us may seem slow, the time will come when we will be able to see what has been changing within us. And we will be strong again.

Comforting words to remember from Scripture for this time in our lives . . .

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew our strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

You raise me up, so
I can stand on
mountains.
You raise me up, to
walk on stormy
seas.
I am strong, when I
am on your
shoulders.
You raise me up, to
be more than I can
be.

When I am down
and, oh my soul, so
weary.
When troubles
come and my heart
burdened be.
Then, I am still and
wait here in the
silence.
Until you come and
sit awhile with me.

You raise me up, so
I can stand on
mountains.
You raise me up, to
walk on stormy
seas.
I am strong, when I
am on your
shoulders.
You raise me up, to
be more than I can
be.

