

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo
Lead Pastor



1224 Hancock Drive
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: www.booneopenbible.com
E-mail: office@booneopenbible.com
pastor@booneopenbible.com

SERMON TITLE

How to Wait Well

SERIES

DATE

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KEY SCRIPTURE

Various Scriptures

SYNOPSIS

When it seems that God is slow to answer, we can learn to wait well.

HIGHLIGHTS





👉HOW TO WAIT WELL

We've been talking about Timing for a few weeks now. There is Design in the Delay; It's Not Too Late because God gives 2nd and 3rd chances; and, God is always Right on Time. I think we all *believe* that God's timing is best, but still struggle with the waiting period. In my last sermon I briefly talked about that – learning to wait well. I gave three ways to wait well: Pray continually. Stay in the Word. Encourage one another.

Today, I'd like to expand on this subject because I think it's difficult for most people. We don't like waiting... not in traffic... not on the phone with customer service. And if we're being honest, we don't always like waiting on God either. But here's the tension: while the world rushes, God often waits, and asks us to wait, too. And the truth is, how we wait can make or break our faith. So today we're going to talk about How to Wait Well. So, let's see what the Bible has to say on the subject.

👉WAIT EXPECTANTLY

Let's begin with Psalm 5:3: "In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."

David isn't just casually tossing up a prayer and forgetting about it. He's doing something intentional: He lays out his request like a sacrifice on the altar. Then he waits expectantly: he looks 👉up like someone who *knows something's coming*. In Hebrew, this word "expectation" gives the picture of leaning forward, peering into the distance.

Imagine someone at the airport waiting for their loved one to come off the plane. They're not scrolling on their phone. They're watching that board for arrival times. Some even create a welcome sign and stand at the bottom of the escalator. That's expectation.

There's a story is about a little old lady who joined a group that was praying for rain during a drought. She showed up with an umbrella. Everyone else chuckled, until the heavens opened. That's how to wait expectantly... with an umbrella in hand, trusting the rain is coming.

What about you? Are you watching? Are you alert? Or have you given up on expecting anything at all? When you wait well, you *believe God hears and God answers...* not always the way we want; not always *when* we want. But He *does* answer. So, wait expectantly.

👉WAIT PATIENTLY – Don't Panic

Psalm 37:7: "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways."



This kind of waiting is about trusting God's timing. It's resisting comparison and frustration. It's **☞resisting the urge to manipulate the outcome**. Waiting can make us anxious, and anxiety often leads to impatience. And impatience can push us to act outside of God's will.

Remember when Abraham and Sarah decided to "help God out?" She suggested he have a child with Hagar, which resulted in Ishmael. That single rushed decision created generations of conflict. Waiting patiently means we don't birth "Ishmaels" while waiting for our "Isaacs."

☞**Don't** let your fear of delay lead you to manipulate the situation or to **settle for less than God's best**. When we wait patiently, we trust that even the apparent silence of God is filled with purpose. So, wait patiently.

☞**WAIT QUIETLY** – Be Still and Stay Rooted

Lamentations 3:22–26: "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail... It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."

Quiet waiting is not just about outer stillness; it is inner calm. It's resisting the need to vent, panic, or over-think. Sometimes, our minds and mouths are moving faster than our faith. Waiting quietly ☞means we **anchor our soul in the truth of who God is**, even when it doesn't make sense.

Corrie ten Boom once said, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." During World War II, she waited silently in a concentration camp while trusting in God's promises. She didn't know if rescue would come, but her quiet faith while in a chaotic environment became a light to everyone around her. And when deliverance came, it was more powerful than words could express.

There's another story of a woman whose husband was battling addiction. She said one day, God told her to stop nagging and just pray—and be quiet. It wasn't easy. But over time, that quiet faith began to shift something in the spiritual atmosphere. And years later, he's not only sober—he's in ministry.

☞If you're in a season of waiting, don't just talk to God, **listen**. Understand that God is not usually shouting; he's speaking in a gentle, quiet voice, but we're too busy worrying or complaining to hear it. Can you be quiet enough in your spirit to hear God **whisper**? Sit in the silence. Wait quietly.

☞**WAIT EAGERLY**

Romans 8:23: "we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies..."

☞This waiting is rooted in hope. Biblical hope... Not wishful thinking; not fantasy, but a **sure and confident belief** that what God promised, He will do. This type of waiting anticipates, but is not anxious. It's persistent, like a runner nearing the finish line.



Viktor Frankl, a Jewish psychiatrist, was, like Corrie ten Boom, imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps during World War II. He lost everything—his family, his career, his freedom. Every day, prisoners were forced into hard labor and many starved or were executed. It was a place of unimaginable suffering. But Frankl noticed something remarkable: The people who survived the longest weren't the strongest physically—they were the ones who held onto hope. He wrote about one man who kept telling himself, "I believe I'll be free by Christmas." Christmas came... no freedom. Then he said, "By Easter." Easter came... nothing. Eventually, his hope gave way to despair, and he died—not from illness, but from hopelessness.

...But Frankl made a different choice. Even in the darkness, he chose to believe that life had meaning, including his suffering. He imagined a future where he would teach others what he learned. He said: "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." After liberation, Frankl went on to write *Man's Search for Meaning*, a book that has changed millions of lives.

Hope isn't denial of suffering, it's the decision to believe that God is still working, even when we can't see it. True hope waits, not because it sees, but because it **trusts in the character of God**.

- **He is good.** "The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him..." (Lamentations 3:25)
- **He is faithful.** "Great is Your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:23)
- **He is loving.** "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed..." (Lam. 3:22)

So, wait eagerly.

Missionaries wait years to see fruit. Parents pray decades for prodigal children. They don't stop, because they've learned that **God is not slow; He's strategic**. We don't wait well because it's easy... We wait well because God is worthy of our trust.

How do we wait well? **Expectantly. Patiently. Quietly. Eagerly.**

Are you in a season of waiting? For healing? For reconciliation? For a promise to come to pass? Let me encourage you: You're not alone. All of creation is waiting (Romans 8). The saints before you waited. Even Jesus waited 30 years before launching His ministry. Many here today are waiting, too. And while you wait God is working. He's building something in you that can't be rushed.

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.