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## Waiting Brings Blessings

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***No one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.*** Isaiah 64:4

*"I hate to wait. I hate to wait for a traffic light to turn green, for the doctor to see me, for the telephone to ring, for investments to produce, for the copier to warm up, for seeds to grow, for the fax to go through, for answers to prayer . . . I hate to wait. Period. Waiting is so hard, especially when I am waiting on the Lord. Sometimes He seems to be s-o-o-o s-l-o-w. But waiting is an essential part of spiritual discipline. It can be the ultimate test of our faith. If we grow impatient with waiting and take matters into our own hands, we will be in trouble. But if we wait on God, we will be blessed." – Lotz*

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The importance of waiting on God is illustrated in Stormie Omartian's book, **Just Enough Light for the Step I'm On . . .**

"I once knew a man who dashed frantically from one job to another, not because he needed the money, but because he was trying to make something happen for himself and secure his future. His commitment to the Lord was minimal; his obsession with success was paramount. His future is no more secure today than it has ever been, and he is still chasing after something that will forever elude him.

I know another man with the same kind of talent and abilities who chose to draw close to the Lord, humble and submit himself in every way, press into God's Word, and pray fervently for God's guidance. Doors flew open for him, some of which he didn't even dream of knocking on. He didn't try to make God fit *his* vision. He fit himself into *God's* vision. He didn't just do whatever he wanted to do, then ask God to bless it. He asked what God wanted him to do, and when he did it God blessed him.

Noah didn't one day decide he was going to build a giant boat and then, after he was finished, ask God to do something with it that would make him go down in history. Not at all. "Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God." (Genesis 6:9). This is worth repeating—**Noah walked with God**. And God blessed him. Abraham didn't suddenly say to Sarah one day, "Let's pull up stakes and wander in the desert, and then ask God to lead us somewhere." No, **Abraham walked with God**, and God told him to leave his country and go to a place He would show him. And God promised, "*I will bless you*" (Genesis 12:2). And God *did* bless him. Moses didn't just decide one day to go to Pharaoh and ask him to release a million people so they could leave town together. No, Moses was quietly minding his own flock as God had instructed him to do, when suddenly he heard the Lord call to him from the middle of a burning bush and *tell* him to go. When Moses waited for God's instructions, the Lord blessed everything he did.

**These men were walking with God in their daily lives.** God spoke to them and told them what to do. They did it. And God blessed them. Can there possibly be a lesson here for us? *You have a great future ahead and it will be reached as you move out of your past and walk step by step with God as He reveals Himself to you in the present.*

Just as you should not live in the past, resist the urge to live in the future also. Put your future in God's hands, trusting that he will never withhold anything good from you, and then stop worrying about it. This doesn't mean a trumpet will sound announcing that you are spiritually immature if you find yourself concerned about the future. God is not asking you to be perfect. He is asking you to allow *Him* to be perfect in you. God is asking you to trust that *He* has your future planned. Thinking too much about the future can keep you from fully living the life God has given you now.

This doesn't mean you can't have goals. But some people have goals that are so strong they *sacrifice* everything to achieve them, even their family and God. Instead of allowing the goal to come *from* God, the goal itself *becomes* god. Goals are not meant to be a plumb line to determine the shortest distance to success, but rather a compass to give a sense of direction."

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**“What’s worse than not waiting on God? ... Wishing we had!”**

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The LORD is pleased when we walk by **FAITH** (Fantastic Adventure in Trusting Him). **God will give us what we ask for or He will give us what we would have asked for if we knew everything He knows.** - Tim Keller. God has a plan, a future and a hope for each of us with our name on it. Let's walk confidently in that truth!

There are two ways of waiting: patiently or impatiently. Learning to wait patiently is something God is still working on in my life. " I like a term coined by Smead called: **“W-A-I-T training.”** He states that “one workout we should regularly participate in is the exercise of patience.” **“Wait Training”** requires spiritual strength. Don't look for an alternate route, remember God's promise! . . . **No one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.** Isaiah 64:4

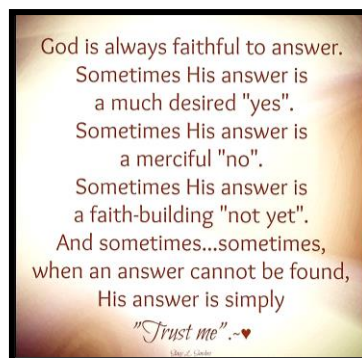
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*“Because we are surrounded by technologies that make our lives faster and easier, we tend to think about spiritual realities in technological terms. We want to reap the very second we sow. We want God to microwave answers. MapQuest directions, and Twitter instructions. We want things to happen at the speed of light instead of the speed of a seed planted in the ground, but almost all spiritual realities in Scripture are described in agricultural terms. We want our dreams to become a reality overnight. We want our prayers answered immediately. But that Isn't the way it works in God's kingdom.*

*Until recently I attached an ASAP to every prayer. I wanted God to answer as soon as possible. But this is no longer my agenda. I don't want easy or quick answers because I have a tendency to mishandle the blessings that come too easily or too quickly. I take the credit for them, or I take them for granted. So now I pray it will take long enough and be hard enough for God to receive all of the glory.*

*I'm not looking for the path of least resistance; I'm looking for the path of greatest glory. And that requires high-degree-of-difficulty prayers and lots of circling. I'm praying **ALAT prayers.** As long as it takes. God always delivers on His promises, but He does it on His timeline!” – Batterson*

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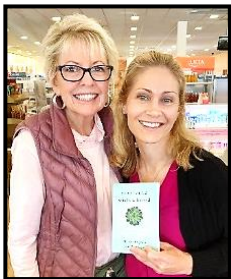
“God wants to walk with us before He works through us. He will wait to act until He finds the right man or woman through whom He can work. God wants to walk with us before He works through us. So, He will wait to act until He finds the right man or woman through whom He can work.

To put it bluntly, God works with His friends. He doesn't decide what He wants to do and then start looking for someone to use. He looks for a man or a woman, and once He finds him or her, He then decides what He wants to do with them. For example, God didn't choose Noah because He wanted to send a flood; God had the freedom to send a flood because He had found a man to walk with. God always starts by finding a friend first. **Oh beloved, learn to walk with God!**" - Bob Sorge

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MATTHEW 5:16



I'm thankful that the Lord directs our steps! I was delighted when I went to Ulta to see Melissa, who works there. We've been keeping in touch since meeting at Safeway. Her dad recently passed away and she shared how she had really been struggling. Her mom was having a hard time as well. I knew then why the Lord prompted me to go to Ulta to find a product which, by the way, they didn't have. His ways are always higher than ours. Melissa needed encouragement! I immediately went home to get a copy of the book, **Surviving Widowhood**, which my dear friend Sharon Engram wrote. I drove back to Ulta and gave Melissa the book so she could give it to her mom. Melissa wrote *I wanted to just thank you again so much for giving my mom that beautiful book! Yes, it has truly been helping my mom and bringing her some comfort, the devotions are just so heartfelt and genuine!*



**I'm so grateful God brought Melissa into my life in September 2020! It was a Divine Appointment!**

*On a September morning during the pandemic, I met Sara in the Safeway parking lot, It was definitely a God appointment! In passing I told her how much I liked her hat with a crystal cross on it (cute & blingy)! Sara asked if I knew Jesus and I lifted up my cross necklace, from that moment on a friendship was born!*

*Sara gave me the HOPE deck of cards which I so enjoy reading every day and the Stop to Pray medallion to hang in the car! Being a single mom during a pandemic has definitely had its challenges and I am just trying to grow in my faith walk and trust in the Lord! Sara is such a strong faith filled woman and I am so grateful for her encouragement and her prayers! We have enjoyed talking about our life events and praying for one another! It's so wonderful to see God work his miracles through the power of prayer! I am so thankful for my new friend Sara! -- Melissa Black*

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### *God Impressions* - by Joni Eareckson Tada

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**Live wisely among those who are not Christians and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and effective so that you will have the right answer for everyone. Colossians 4:5-6**



*Have you ever played with Silly Putty -- that pink, squeezable, rubbery clay that comes in a plastic egg? One of the most fun aspects of the putty is the way it will copy color pictures out of a magazine or comic book. I often think of that property of Silly Putty when I want to leave what I call "**God impressions**" on people.*

*You squeeze in a moment or stretch out the time to press your love of Christ up against someone. Maybe it's just a smile and a "God bless your day." Or returning a kindness with, "Thanks for helping me, and the next time you're near a Bible, look up Hebrews 6:10... it's definitely you!" Often, I'm able to leave a **God impression** on someone by singing a hymn. People see me in this wheelchair; hear me singing praises to God, and wonder, where in the world does her joy come from? It has to be God.*

*It's a way of pressing my life up against theirs for a brief moment so that when I peel away... I've left a **God impression** on that person -- however brief or fleeting it might have been. And once you encounter the Lord, you find yourself thirsty for something this world can't offer, hungry for something this world can't satisfy.*

*Busy as you may be, you still encounter many people during the course of your day. Press your love for Christ up against that friend down the street or that co-worker or that woman you regularly greet at the cash register. When you do, you'll leave them with a **God impression**... and make them thirsty for more.*

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I often ask people I meet this question: *Is there anything I can pray for you?* I asked Mia, who works at the Post, that question last week and she said, *Yes! I need peace, health, and wealth.* I told her that Jesus could give her peace and briefly shared how He had changed my life (thankfully no one was waiting in line – a miracle!). I then gave her the enclosed booklet: **Would You Like to Know God Personally?** She took it eagerly and said she would read it. **I want to challenge you to step out in faith and give this booklet to someone this week. Because of you, someone's eternal address may be changed!**

## The Vibrant Life Show



"Sara graciously said 'yes' to being on "The Vibrant Life Show" with me, a radio show program from FaithTalk1360am here in Arizona! As the host of the show, it is always a joy to interview guests and this one was extra special because Sara and I have served in ministry together at ARISE before and now, we got to sit down just the two of us and talk about what I know her for... and probably what most people do too... evangelism! Sara has an anointing and heart to share the Gospel to all she comes in contact with.

We talked about why we are all called to share Jesus in our going, and ways we can begin to do that. It was so helpful for Sara to share stories of the simple ways she's been able to share with others about Jesus but also how to always be on the lookout for a moment to bless someone else's life. As I'm sure you know, Sara lives out what she preaches. It is a JOY to be in a room with her and I cannot wait for people to hear her share her story, encouragement, and practical steps to evangelizing in our day-to-day lives!

The show airs on Tuesday, May 10th on Faith Talk 1360am at 5pm and re-airs on Thursday at 12:30pm. One convenient place to access Podcast, Spotify and YouTube is through Link Tree: <https://linktr.ee/thevibrantlifeshow> It will be live on May 10 at 6pm and will always be available. You won't want to miss it - and we have a blast as well! I can't wait for my listeners to hear Sara, get to know her, and be blessed by her voice!" – Ali Gentry

"You've got to meet Ali!" a mutual friend told me and now I know why! Ali is passionate about her walk with Jesus and encouraging others to live a vibrant life in Christ! She is fun, energetic and inspires me to walk more closely with Jesus! She is also the founder of **ARISE** which meets the second Tuesday of every month. I've been encouraged and challenged by the worship and the speakers, and also blessed by all the precious women I've met! Please visit the **ARISE website: [www.arisemvmt.com](http://www.arisemvmt.com)**

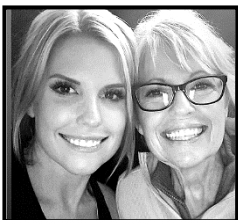


## Someone said: The Harvest is plentiful, and the observers are many!



I love meeting new people, praying for people and telling them about my Savior! It's such an exciting adventure to see who the Lord brings into our path each day if we're willing to let Him use us to be "salt and light". What abundant JOY I experienced as He allowed my path to cross with these precious individuals during my recent trip to California to visit Jennifer. I met Hector and Yvonne at Sky Harbor Airport. They had such joyful spirits and I asked if they knew Jesus, and they did! What a blessing they were to me! 😊

I met Brandi on my return flight from San Diego to Phoenix. The plane was completely full, so Brandi grabbed the middle seat in my row. What a delight she was as we chatted during the entire one-hour flight! I loved hearing about her life and seeing pictures of her boyfriend who was also on the plane but seated in a different row. The Lord opened the opportunity for me to share my testimony with Brandi and before landing I gave her the **Would You Like to Know God Personally?** booklet. We plan to keep in touch!



Let me start off by saying that I'm pretty certain that when God made moms, He gave me the best one! My mom is truly an amazing, inspiring woman of God. Every event of hers that I've been able to attend, I am always humbled by her steadfast commitment to and love for Christ. She is a testimony on the importance of walking with Jesus wholeheartedly and is an unmistakable light for Him wherever she goes. I am always amazed by the number of lives that she has and continues to touch, whether at the post office, a stop light or an airport, they are immeasurable! I am grateful to not only call her my mom but also my best friend! 😊

**Father, may the fragrance of your Son be upon my life, so that even entering or leaving a room, some lingering sense of His presence will draw hearts to seek you."** - Tada

Sara