Waiting on the Lord  
Psalm 62:1-8  
October 6, 2013

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. How long will you assault a man? Would all of you throw him down – this leaning wall, this tottering fence? They fully intend to topple him from his lofty place; they take delight in lies. With their mouths they bless, but in their hearts they curse. Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Today, most people’s lives are characterized by speed, impatience, noise, and all manner of activities. Occasionally, just to spice things up, we even throw in a little panic. Most of us would rather do anything than wait. And our impatience is the source of many of our problems. When we get impatient, we tend to move too quickly or in the wrong direction.

The same is true in our spiritual lives. Many times, God wants us to wait, but we get impatient. God wants us to trust in him and wait for his guidance. Learning to wait on God is a mark of spiritual growth.

Today we are going to examine waiting on the Lord. Many biblical characters waited on the Lord. They waited because they had no control over their situations. However, waiting wasn’t easy for them, and it isn’t easy for us.

Noah knew how to wait. God told Noah to build an ark – literally a ship. It wasn’t a weekend project. Noah’s ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Noah spent 100 years building this ship in a place that had never seen a drop of rain. Noah’s patience earned safety for himself and his family. More important, Noah waited 100 years to learn that God is true to his word.

Job waited on God. People talk about the patience of Job. That might be because Job lost all his possessions, all ten of his children, and his health. Through all this, Job waited on the Lord. He waited against the advice of his friends and his wife. And God rewarded Job’s patience with more blessings than he had before.

Abraham tried to rush ahead of God but he learned to wait. When his promised son didn’t arrive on Abraham’s schedule, Abraham tried to force God’s promise and Ishmael was born. It was another 13 years before God blessed Abraham and Sarah with the birth of Isaac. Abraham waited and God was faithful.

Joseph waited. His brothers sold him into slavery when he was 17 years old. He waited through mistreatment, imprisonment, and being forgotten. Thirteen years later, God rewarded Joseph’s patience by making him second in command of the most powerful
nation on earth and allowing him to play a key role in saving God’s people from starvation.
Moses tended sheep for 40 years in the Midian desert waiting for God to call him. When God finally called, Moses was God’s vehicle of choice to free the Israelites from their Egyptian taskmasters.

Jesus waited patiently for his Father’s will to be done. The disciples waited in an upper room for the Holy Spirit. Paul waited three years for his heart and mind to be prepared to do God’s work.

Biblically, waiting on God is the rule, not the exception. And waiting on God does not include worrying.

So, why should we wait on God. What does waiting on God bring that’s worth waiting for?

**God instructs us to wait for strength.** We are nothing without God’s strength. God promises his strength through the prophet Isaiah: *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* (Is 40:31 NIV).

**God tells us to wait on his provision.** In today’s sermon text, the psalmist says: *Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him* (Ps 62:5 NIV).

**God wants us to wait for his guidance.** Without God going before us, we are bound to go in the wrong direction. That’s why King Solomon said: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight* (Prov 3:5-6 NIV).

Scripture also tells us that, if we wait, we will see the **fulfilment of God’s promises.** In the book of Hebrews we read: *You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised* (Heb 10:36 NIV).

Now, we know why we should wait on God so let’s ask another key question. How should we wait on God? We shouldn’t wait wringing our hands hoping God will come through. We shouldn’t develop an ulcer worrying about God’s faithfulness. While we wait on the Lord, we do two things.

**While you wait, supplicate.** King David said: *I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry* (Ps 40:1 NIV). Supplication means to ask God for specific things. Supplication means prayer. While we are waiting for God to act in a certain area, God wants us to be in prayer about the desired outcome.

Prayer helps us to focus on the fact that God is in control. Prayer helps us to focus on the situation we are praying about. If we fail to pray, we will probably lose sight of the
objective and fail to see when God does act. Prayer keeps us actively in touch with God and his actions.

There is a poem that speaks of praying while you’re waiting:
I know not by what methods rare,
But this I know, God answers prayer.
I know not when he sends the Word,
That tells us fervent prayer is heard.
I know it cometh soon or late;
Therefore we need to pray and wait.
I know not if the blessing sought,
Will come in just the guise I thought.
I leave my prayers with him alone,
Whose will is wiser than my own.

In a textile mill there were signs which read: “If your threads get tangled, call the foreman.” One day a new worker got her threads tangled. Trying to untangle them herself, she made an even bigger mess. Finally she called the foreman for help. The foreman could read the situation and asked the girl why she didn’t call sooner. She said, “I did my best.” The foreman replied, “You didn’t do your best. The best thing you could do was call me.”

As Christians, doing our best is telling God all our needs as we wait on him.

The second thing is – **While you wait, saturate**. Saturate yourself with the Word of God by reading, studying, meditating, and even memorizing Scripture. It is impossible to spend too much time in God’s Word.

Studying about God’s goodness makes your waiting easier. It is uplifting to read about the wonderful things that God has done in the past. What God has done in the past, he will also do in the present and in the future, because our God never changes. The first verse of Psalm 106 tells us: *Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever* (Ps 106:1 NIV).

Spend some time counting your blessings. Everyone has been blessed by God in multiple ways. Everyone’s blessings are different. God has blessed you differently than he as blessed the person sitting next to you. Count those blessing. Take a few hours and thank God for everything he has given you – from your life, to your faith, from your family and friends, to every possession he has given you. The God who has blessed you so richly will continue to bless you.

After that, meditate on God’s great love. Meditate means to sit quietly and think about how much God loves you. He loves you enough to die for you. When you get a good handle on God’s love, you’ll realize that he would never let you down.

You should also study about the promises of God. After you’ve studied his Word,
counted your blessings, and meditated on God’s love, you can spend your waiting time rejoicing in God’s promises because you know he’ll be true to them. I’ll give you a short list of some of the things God has promised to those who wait on him.

**Salvation for the sinner.** Rom 10:9-13, Jn 14:6
**Forgiveness when we are guilty.** 1 Jn 1:9, Prov 28:13
**Strength when we are weak.** Is 41:10
**Comfort when we are in sorrow.** Is 61:1-2, Mt 5:4
**Grace when we are sick or suffering.** 2 Cor 12:8-10, Jam 5:13-16
**Protection when we are in danger.** Ps 27:5, Ps 50:15
**Courage when we are afraid.** Ps 46:1-2, Ps 34:4
**Peace when we are upset.** Is 26:3
**Rest when we are weary.** Mt 11:28
**Strength when we face temptation.** 1 Cor 10:13
**Companionship when we are alone.** Heb 13:5
**Encouragement when we are defeated.** Deut 33:27

Lastly, while you wait on the Lord, study about his power. When you read about the Exodus from Egypt, the defeat of Jericho, the calming of the storm, the feeding of thousands, the raising of the dead, and the rising from the dead, you will come to understand that there is no problem that God cannot deliver you from or give you the strength to face.

Waiting on God involves trusting him, reading his Word so we can listen to him, praying to him, and resting quietly in him. If you’ve been trying to run ahead of God, stop. Sit down. Pray. And remember the words of Isaiah: *Since ancient times 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* (Is 64:4).