

**WAITING  
ON  
GOD**

**Notes from the book by**

**Andrew Murray**

**With an Article by**

**Scott Hubbard**

# Waiting on God

## Introduction

I have long known of Andrew Murray (1828-1917) as an inspired Dutch Reformed Church Missionary and author in South Africa. But it is my sadness that, after fifty years as a Christian, I have only just read ***Waiting on God***.

It concentrates the mind! It reveals that we are helpless and that God is our source. If we want to have Christ formed in us, and if we want to walk as Jesus walked, then Andrew Murray has some good advice for us. *'Wait on God!'*

Abraham waited; Joseph waited; Hannah waited; Jesus, our Bridegroom, has waited 2000 years for His marriage Banquet. It is worth waiting!

So I hope these notes, with some contemporary comments, will be a help to any reader and encourage them to buy the book. It will be a blessing.

Providentially, the article by Scott Hubbard came to my attention. It seemed to be a perfect match to the words of Andrew Murray. Be encouraged!

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# Waiting on God

## **1. The God of our Salvation.**

***‘My soul waiteth only upon God; from Him cometh my salvation’. Psalm 62:1***

If salvation is of God, as Creation was, our highest duty is to wait on Him to do what pleases Him. Man’s glory was not to be independent of God, nor dependent on himself, but dependent on, and for the glory of, a God of infinite power, riches and love. After the fall of man, God alone started the work of redemption. Once we know our poverty and helplessness, waiting on God will become as indispensable as breathing the air that maintains our natural life. As we wait on God, we discover that He delights to impart His nature to His child.

## **2. The Keynote of Life**

***‘I have waited for thy salvation, O Lord!’ Genesis 49:18***

When Jacob prophesied these words to his sons, his expectation was from God alone. It is God who works in us, but we can delay His work by indifference or self-effort. God asks us to surrender our will, to embrace His will, to trust and obey. All this comes from waiting on Him. If we are surrendered to God, we can find a place of stillness in which His Spirit can quicken the faith that He will perfect His work. Waiting on God will become the strength and joy of the soul.

## **3. The True Place of the Creature.**

***‘These all wait upon thee, that thou mayest give them their meat in due season ... they are satisfied with good’. Psalm 104 :27-28***

This Psalm sums up the relationship of all Creation to its Creator. Just as it is God’s work to create, it is His work to maintain. So the birds and beasts, like mankind, wait upon Him. Waiting on God is necessary to restore our fallen nature to our original destiny as creatures who will reflect the Glory of God in us. It is God who giveth all: let this faith enter deeply into our hearts. Waiting on God, with unceasing dependence on Him, is an expression of our relationship with the God in whom we live. By waiting on Him we shall find rest, joy and the supply of our needs.

## **4. Waiting for Supplies.**

***'The Lord Upholdeth all who fall, and raiseth up all who would be bowed down. The eyes of all wait on thee'. Psalm 145:14.***

When an army on the march is held up, it is often because it is waiting for supplies. Likewise, in the Christian life, we receive supplies from heaven by practising the discipline of waiting on God. While we may pray a lot, very little may be waiting on God. We may be so occupied with ourselves and our needs that we do not take time to be quiet, to let the presence of God overshadow us, so that He can fill us with Himself. Stir up your soul with the child-like expectation of being in the arms of a loving Father. So wait upon God, and realise that any lack may be because we have waited too little on our God who would otherwise have met our need in its season.

## **5. Waiting for Instruction**

***'Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth and teach me. On thee I wait all the day'. Psalm 15:4-5.***

The Psalmist reminds us that, to know the wisdom of God and its application to our circumstances, we need daily divine teaching. God knows that we cannot live holy lives unless He works it in us. In perplexities and in everyday life we can count on Him to guide us. So we develop a listening ear to hear the Holy Spirit *'all the day.'* If we could believe that our loving God waits to be gracious to us and **to be our life**, then waiting upon Him would be our highest joy.

## **6. For All the Saints**

***'Let none that wait on thee be shamed'. Psalm 25:3***

Jesus did not receive His Father's love just for Himself, He passed it on. So as we seek the love of God we must remember to pray for all the Saints in the world, many of whom will be sick and weary, whose prayers seem not to be answered, who fear they may be ashamed. Then, as we reach out to God, asking Him to strengthen His waiting ones, so we will also be strengthened.

## 7. A Plea in Prayer

***'Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on Thee'. Psalm 25:21***

There is an important warning here. If we are to draw nigh to God it must be with the integrity of a pure heart, with an honest **and entire** surrender to His will. If we discover, as we learn to wait upon God, that we have many hidden frailties to be dealt with, this is one of the blessings that waiting was meant to achieve. It must be clear what we are waiting for. It is good to make a list and to pray after each one to the Living God, *'For on Thee do I wait.'* This may require sacrifice and separation, a soul given up to God as its all and only joy. This waiting on God, this close relationship, is true Christianity.

## 8. Be Strong and of Good Courage

***'Wait on the Lord: be strong and let your heart take courage'. Psalm 27:14.***

One of the chief needs of our waiting on God is a confident persuasion that it is not in vain, that God will hear and help and not disappoint His people in the end. This command, given to those like Joshua who had great battles to fight, also applies to our fight against the enemies who would try to stop us waiting on God. The weakness of the flesh, the temptations of demons, all have to be conquered with God's help. Above all, we need to conquer the feeling of discouragement that suggests that our waiting has brought no obvious benefit. The first benefit of waiting is to know **who God is**, and then what He will do. So wait on the Lord, in the sunshine of His love, and see what He will do.

## 9. Waiting for God with the Heart.

***'Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all ye that wait on the Lord.'***  
***Psalm 31:24***

Although this may seem similar to the last paragraph, there is one great truth that needs further emphasis. It is with the heart that we must take courage. As a man's heart is, so is he before God. David, with all his faults, was singled out as being a man after God's heart. It is so easy to pursue the development of the mind, but overlook the far greater importance of the heart. *'Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and not with thine own understanding'* **Proverbs 3:5.**

Educating the mind with the truth of Scripture is good, but it is with the heart that man believeth. It is in the heart that God has placed His Spirit. My mind is impotent in creating spiritual life within me; the heart must wait on God for Him to create it in me. So let the heart wait in silence for God to do His work.

## **10. Waiting in Humble Fear and Hope**

***‘The eye of the Lord is upon those who fear Him, upon those who hope in His mercy ... Our soul hath waited for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His Holy name’.***  
**Psalm 33:18-22.**

Waiting on God takes our eyes away from ourselves, our needs and desires, and occupies us with our God. Fear and hope may seem to be in conflict, but in the worship of God they are in harmony. We are called in our waiting to ever seek to fear the glorious name, **The Lord Thy God**. The more we abase ourselves, the more we know that no flesh can glory in His presence, the more it will be given us to see His glory. But the fatherly kindness of God is always upon those who fear Him, in whatever state we come to Him. However hopeless a situation may seem to be, there is always hope: the eye of God is always upon it! So we can say to each other, *‘Our soul waiteth on the Lord: He is our help and our shield.’*

## **11. Waiting on God patiently**

***Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him ...do not fret, it leads only to evil... those that wait on the Lord shall inherit the land. Psalm 37:7-9.***

It is when we wait on God that we discover that it is with God that we are impatient, because He does not immediately do our bidding. The more we surrender to His sovereign will, the sooner His blessing can come. When we rest in the Lord and His will, patience becomes easy! The son has to wait to inherit, the farmer has to wait for the harvest. As we wait, *‘the Lord will hasten it in its time’*. We are called not to fret at the apparent success of the ungodly, because if we are obedient, regardless of our circumstances, God will do more than we could ask or think.

## **12. Waiting on God: Keeping His Ways.**

***'Wait on the Lord and keep His way; He shall exalt thee to inherit the land.'***

**Psalm 37: 34.**

If we want to meet a man, we enquire where he may be found. With God we must keep His ways, or we cannot expect to find Him. *'Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness; those that remember thee in Thy ways'.*

**Isaiah 64:5.** *'Wait on the Lord'* deals with our attitude, *'and keep His ways'* deals with our behaviour. The outer life must be in harmony with the Inner, the inner must be the strength and inspiration of the outer.

## **13. Waiting on God for more than we know.**

***'And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in thee. Deliver me from all my transgressions. Psalm 39:7-8.***

Since God, in His power and generosity, can do exceedingly more than we could ask or think, we may be limiting Him if we confine our prayers to our own thoughts. The Israelites knew that God could provide water, because He had done it in their experience, but could God provide meat for his people in the wilderness? In prayer there are two hearts at work. Our own little dark hearts searching for their needs, and the heart of God, the source of blessing. To which heart should we give our attention? So surely we should ask of God, *'What have you prepared for me?'* So we learn to leave all in His hands and to wait on Him.

## **14. Waiting on God – the Way to the New Song.**

***'I waited patiently for the Lord, and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry...and He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto my God'.***

True patience is so foreign to our self - confident nature, but it is indispensable if we are to wait upon God. Patience comes from the Latin word for suffering. It implies being subject to a power from which we would prefer to be free. So we learn that patient endurance is the best course. It is important that we submit, **but because we lovingly and joyfully accept God's plan for our lives.** If we feel that patience is beyond us, we can pray,

*'That the Lord direct your hearts into the patience of Christ.'* **2 Thess. 3:5.**  
So, as Paul says, *'We will be strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering, with joyfulness.'* **Col.1:11.**

## **15. Waiting on God for His Counsel.**

*'They soon forgot His works: they waited not for His counsel'.* **Psalm 106:13.**

The Jews collectively in the wilderness, and Joshua individually both in attacking Ai and accepting the Gibeonites, all broke this vital commandment. They waited not for the Counsel of God. Our relationship with God is governed by the need to do His will on earth as it is done in heaven. The more the counsel of His will is sought, the more mightily God will work in our midst. There is a great danger that, when we have the LOGOS Word of God, our past experience and honest wish to do God's will, that we trust in these and do not seek God's active RHEMA word to guide us. So, in all our gatherings, we need to be conscious of our ignorance and take time to seek the Counsel of God.

## **16. Waiting on God for His Light in our Heart.**

*'I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope. My soul waiteth more than they that watch for the morning'.* **Psalm 130:5-6**

How often do we say, *'Turn on the light.'* We need the light to see our way, to find what is lost, to reveal what is good and to protect us from danger. So waiting on God will remove the cobwebs of sin and unbelief, and enable the Light of God to shine on us, in us and through us all the day. As Paul has written, *'God hath made His light shine into our heart.'* **2 Corinthians 4:6.**

## **17. Waiting on God in Times of Darkness.**

*'I will wait upon the Lord who hideth His face from the House of Jacob, and I will look for Him.'* **Isaiah 8:17.**

This suggests that, while waiting on God may begin with our personal needs, yet God may be hiding His countenance from the people around us. Rather than think that this is a just punishment for their sins, we are called with tender hearts to think of their sad estate. When Christ entered the presence of



God He at once used His privileged position to intercede for the saints. Yes, there may be too much formality, too little faith and prayer, no presence of the Holy Spirit, so that you feel as if things are hopeless. But then is the time to recognise our calling in Christ as intercessors and wait upon the Lord.

## **18. Waiting on God to Reveal Himself.**

***Lo, this is our God and we have waited for Him, and He will save us....we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation'. Isaiah 25:9.***

The precious thought here is that God's people have been **unitedly** waiting upon Him, and the fruit of their waiting has been that God revealed Himself. At times of trouble like Dunkirk, when no human help was available, the nation was united in prayer and God revealed Himself in his power and mercy. Are there not enough problems today, beyond human help, that call for united waiting on God? Is there not ritualism, rationalism, formalism and worldliness robbing the Church of its power? Is there not enough apostasy in our nation, with legislation breaking every commandment, deserving God's judgement, that calls for United Prayer? Only then will we be able to say, *'This is our God.'*

## **19. Waiting on God as Judge of All the Earth.**

***'Yes, in the way of thy judgements, O Lord, we have waited for thee...for when thy judgements are in the earth, the inhabitants will learn Thy righteousness' Isaiah 26:8-9.***

God is a God of mercy and judgement. In the Flood and the Exodus from Egypt we see it. Judgement punishes sin, while mercy saves the sinner. When we start to wait upon God we may be brought low by the discovery of hidden sins that have to be dealt with. *'Who may abide the day of His coming...for He is like a refiner's fire.'* **Malachi 3:2.** The soul that longs for God and deliverance from sin cries out, *'Rise up, O Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered.'*

**Numbers 10:35.** Another application is that we are expecting the Lord's return. Are there not so many professing Christians living in carelessness who, unless there is a change, may perish? Must we not warn them, that we are awaiting the coming of the Lord when we will all face His judgements?

## **20. Waiting for God who Waits on Us.**

***‘Therefore will the Lord wait, that He may be gracious unto you, and therefore will He be exalted, that He may have mercy on you; for the Lord is a God of judgement. Blessed are they who wait for Him.’*** Isaiah 8:13.

It is wonderful that God waits for us, so we can be sure of a warm welcome. God rejoices to find those He has been seeking, because He has a glorious purpose for us. But you may ask, *‘If God wants to be gracious, but no help comes after I have been waiting upon Him for so long, what is the answer?’* Well, God is a wise husbandman, the fruit must be ripe. He knows when we are spiritually ready to receive the blessing for our profit and His glory.

## **21. Waiting for God the Almighty One.**

***‘They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint’.*** Isaiah 40:31.

Our waiting on God will depend on our faith that He is the Almighty One. Nothing is too difficult for God. The glory of young men is their strength, **Proverbs 20:29**, but all that is deemed strong with man is nothing compared to those who know their God. Eagles learn to fly by being thrown out of the nest on a cliff by their mother, who then catches them. We also are told to jump out of a boat when we can’t swim to learn that God will hold up His obedient ones. An eagle that soars does not have to flap its wings, it is carried up by the thermals; likewise the Christian who waits on the Lord will rise in the thermals of the Holy Spirit. So, as we trust ourselves to the God *who ‘fainteth not, neither is weary’*, we will also soar in His strength and not be weary.

## **22. Waiting on God for the Certainty of Blessing.**

***‘Thou shalt know that I am the Lord, for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me’.*** Isaiah 49:23.

How often were the Jews, and later the Church, in a hopeless situation yet found that in the end they were not ashamed. Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father and laughs. Psalm 2:4. He knows the last chapter! What we say is

not the measure of our faith, but our experience of Him, with sin conquered and God revealed within us in His holiness and power. The promised blessing may tarry, but as you wait on Him, God will reveal Himself as the One who will fulfil His every promise. Waiting on God is the highest privilege of man.

### **23. Waiting on God for Unlooked-for Things.**

*'Since ancient times no one has heard, nor ear perceived, nor eye has seen any God like you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him'. Isaiah 64:4.*

The needs of God's people, and the call for God's intervention, are as urgent now as they were in the days of Isaiah. There were then, and there are now, a few who seek after God with all their heart. The state of the Church is again so desperate that again we cry, *'Rend the heavens, Lord, and come down'*. Unless He comes down, our labours will be fruitless. There is so little demonstration of the power of the Spirit in Signs and Wonders. So we must cry out and ask God to do unlooked-for things; a blast of hail to destroy our adversaries; a conviction of sin to bring people to repentance. May the Lord be gracious unto us as we wait on Him.

### **24. Waiting on God to know His Goodness.**

*'The Lord is good to those who wait on Him.' Lamentations 3:25.*

*'There is none good but God'*. Matthew 19:17. The way to enter into and rejoice in His goodness is by waiting on Him. We come, at first, perhaps selfishly seeking our desires. But God uses this appetite to give Himself and to satisfy the soul with His goodness. Gradually we will see that this is not just one Christian virtue, but expresses **a disposition that is at the very root of the Christian life**. It takes time and trouble and discipline to develop an appetite to wait on God; we can easily be like Martha; the service we render to God may separate us from Him. *'Mary has chosen what is better'* **Luke 10:42**. What a great discovery this is!

## **25. Waiting on God quietly.**

***'It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord'. Lamentations 3:26***

*'In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.'* **Isaiah 30:15.** Our nature has become so estranged from God that it requires our whole heart to know and receive Him. Just the thought of God, *high and lifted up*, should be enough to silence us. We need to progress from seeking God for our needs to seeking Him alone because He is good. Then all self and self-effort will be humbled. So we need to take time to separate ourselves from friends and duties, even from prayer and reading the Word, to be silent before His glory. Our quietness is an expression of our helplessness; also our trust that our God will, in His time, come to our help.

## **26. Waiting on God in Holy Expectancy.**

***'Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me' Micah 7:7***

When we are waiting on God for an answer to prayer, our waiting must be in the confident assurance, *'My God will hear me.'* A joyful expectancy is the essence of true waiting, because our God does 'sudden' works. The greatest hope is that Christ will be fully formed in us. This is what God has promised, but only God can do it. So we count on Him who raises the dead and calls *'things that are not as if they were'*. **Romans 4:17.** It is in the stillness of the grave, with our will and energy put to death, that God will arise and show Himself. *'Be still and know that I am God'*. **Psalm 46:10.**

## **27. Waiting on God for Redemption.**

***'Simeon ... was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Ghost was upon him...Anna, a prophetess...spoke of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem'. Luke 2: 25, 36, 38.***

Here we have the mark of true believers; righteous, devout, waiting for God and His promised redemption. Now that the consolation of Israel has come, do we still need to wait? Yes, indeed, but more wonderfully as we are now in

Christ waiting for Him to be formed in us. As we now have access to the Father, we can be sure that we will not wait in vain. As Simeon and Anna were helpless in achieving the consolation of Israel, so we are helpless in God's work of forming Christ in us. We can be sure that as God was faithful to reveal Christ to Simeon and Anna, so He will be faithful to form Christ in us.

## **28. Waiting on God for the Coming of His Son.**

***'Turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for His Son from heaven'. 1 Thessalonians 1: 9-10.***

The waiting on God for His presence and power in our daily lives is the true preparation for waiting for Christ. However, there is a danger of being more occupied with things that are coming than with Him who is to come. It is important to remember, before so many other interests, that it is the work of God in us that will prepare us for His coming. *'The blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ'* **Titus 2:13** has always been the bond of unity in the Church. Tender love for Jesus and for each other is the true bridal spirit. Jesus refuses to accept our love if it is not also extended to our brethren. Love for each other is the beauty of the bride.

## **29. Waiting on God for the Promise of the Father.**

***'He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father.'* Acts 1:4.**

*'We are the clay, you are the Potter.'* **Isaiah 64:8** But clay teapots cannot pour tea until they have a tea bag (Jesus) and the water, (Holy Spirit). So, as at Pentecost, we cannot experience God within us until, after being born again and receiving the tea bag, we have humbled ourselves and been baptised with the Holy Spirit. Then, as with the disciples, we will be refilled as we wait upon God. The Spirit was again manifest in Samaria, **Acts 8:4-8** ; when the Spirit commanded, *'Separate me Barnabus and Saul,'* **Acts 13:2**; again with Cornelius. **Acts 10:44.** Today the Holy Spirit is still pouring out His gifts to bring impossible things to pass for the Glory of God as we wait on Him. So we are called to *'seek ye earnestly the gifts of the Spirit'*. **1 Corinthians 14:1.**

### **30. Waiting on God Continually.**

***‘Therefore turn to thy God: keep mercy and judgement, and wait on thy God continually.’ Hosea 12:6.***

God has chosen me and is working in me continually. I wait on Him to make me in His image, in entire dependence on Him, desiring to do only what pleases Him. So my habit of soul must be to wait on Him continually. Those content with a feeble Christian life may see this as unnecessary. With many things to do, it may seem impossible. It is a matter of the heart. A father’s heart may be filled with concern for a sick child, while his business is engaging all his thoughts. Your spiritual life is the work of God; it is the Holy Spirit who has started this work in you, and He will enable you to wait continually. God works continually in me, so I may wait continually on Him. So the holy habit of my soul will be, *‘on thee do I wait all the day.’ Psalm 25:5.*

### **31. Waiting on God Only.**

***‘My soul, wait thou only on God, for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and salvation.’ Psalm 62:5-6.***

It is hard to pray, trusting in the Lord alone, without feeling that God may need some help! You desire to be good? *‘There is none good but ...God.’ Matt.19:17.* You desire to be holy? *‘There is none holy as the Lord’.* **1 Samuel 2:2.** Do you desire to work for God and His kingdom? *‘The Everlasting God, the Lord ... fainteth not nor is weary, ... He giveth power to the faint. ...They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.’ Isaiah 40:28-39.*

You are an immortal spirit created, not for this world, but for eternity. So determine that God alone is your source of health, wealth, honour, ministry, holiness and all else of merit. Whatever your spiritual or temporal needs are, let your expectations be from God alone. If you ever think that waiting is too hard, remember your utter helplessness and the absolute sufficiency of your God. Consider your inability to change anything evil in you, or to bring forth anything that is spiritually good. God waits to be our life and our joy, once we have learnt to wait on Him. *‘Truly, my soul waiteth on God.’ Psalm 62:1.*

# Waiting on God

by Scott Hubbard (abridged)

As Paul Tripp says, *'Waiting is not about what you get at the end of the wait; it's about what you become as you wait. God uses the fire of waiting to mould our faith, melt away our dross, and bring us out on the other side refined. If you are in a season of prolonged and painful waiting, here are five prayers, five pleas, that will help you draw closer to Jesus.'*

## 1. Strengthen me to wait patiently.

*We have not ceased to pray for you,.. for all endurance and patience with joy.*

**Colossians 1:9-11.**

Almost every area of modern life demands instant gratification. So when God tells us to wait for marriage, children, a job, how do we avoid becoming like Israel's wilderness wanderers, who *"became impatient on the way"* and *"spoke against God"*? **Numbers 21:4-5**

We need God to strengthen us with *patience*. Patience is the power to press on through difficulties, discouragements, full of faith and praise. Patience enables us to say to God, *'I don't know what you're doing, Father. But you are wise and I trust you to work out wonderful. Strengthen me to wait patiently.'*

## 2. Awaken me to today.

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

**Psalms 118:24**

Waiting can pressure us to live in the future. We need God to awaken us to today. Today, God's mercies came up with the sunrise. **Lamentations 3: 22/23.**

Today, the heavens sing of his beauty **Psalms 19:1.** Today, God rehearses the

story of his love. **Romans 5:4.** Today, we have a cross to pick up. **Luke 9:23.**

Today, we have people to listen to, serve, and forgive. **Colossians 3:12-13.**

Today, we have good works to walk in. **Ephesians 2:10.**

No matter how mundane, and no matter how far off from our dreams, today is the day that the Lord has made. It is good and possible, even as we wait, to rejoice and be glad in today.

### 3. Keep me from foolish shortcuts.

*“In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” Isaiah 30:15.*

Our world abounds with foolish shortcuts — opportunities to leave the narrow way that leads to life for a path that soothes our flesh. Prolonged seasons of waiting merely make the shortcuts more tempting.

Scripture has characters who gave up waiting. The wilderness generation, waiting for Moses to come down from Mount Sinai to deliver God’s word, decided to make a Golden Calf **Exodus 32:1**. King Saul, waiting for Samuel to come and offer a sacrifice before battle, decided he’d play the priest himself. **1 Samuel 8-10**. The Israelites, waiting for God to deliver them from enemy armies, decided they’d seek Egypt’s help instead. **Isaiah 30:15-16**.

We have our own shortcuts: The single woman who lowers her standards instead of waiting for a worthy man. The believer who seeks a quick answer to sanctification instead of enduring the often painful process of the hands of the Potter. Those who daydream about a different life instead of thanking God for the one we have.

We need God to keep us from foolish shortcuts. We need God to tell us, as he told his people through Isaiah, that our salvation is in returning and rest, not in speed and compromise. Our strength is in quietness and trust, not in trying to fix it!

### 4. Make me want the future you have for me.

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that you may proclaim the excellences of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. 1 Peter 2:9.*

As we grow up, we imagine our future. We anticipate the time when we’ll begin a career, or get married, or start a family. But for many of us, what we hoped for does not happen. We need God to help us want the future He has for us. Seasons of waiting train us to relinquish our role as the author of our own story and take up our role as a character in God’s story.



As Christians, we know we are to proclaim his excellences. **1 Peter 2:9**. Sometimes from places of fulfillment; at other times from places of waiting and poverty. In this way we demonstrate that God, no matter what He withholds, is our sufficiency.

However disappointed we may feel, we know that our Author has kept a good chapter for us at the end. *“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”*.

**1 Corinthians 2:9**. The God who saved the world through a cross and an empty tomb knows how to turn our stories into something beautiful. Our role is to trust Him and glorify Him, even when we can't see the ending.

## 5. Remind me of what I'm really waiting for.

*“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him.”* **Isaiah 25:9**.

In this world, we are always waiting for something: a spouse, a job, a child, a prodigal, release from depression, financial freedom. But for Christians, the tremors of something greater rumble beneath every one of these good gifts. We are waiting for something better than this world can give.

We are waiting for a new world, where righteousness reigns. **2 Peter 3:13**.

We are waiting for a new body, finally delivered from death and decay.

**Romans 8:23**. We are waiting for a new power, when sin will lose its last hold on us. **Galatians 5:5**.

We are also waiting for our King, Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 1:10**. The sight of his face, the sound of his voice, will banish sadness; it will swallow every disappointment; one moment in His presence will cast all of our pain into the depths of the sea. Despite all our waiting in this world, may God remind us that there is a hope that cannot disappoint us. One day soon, our King will come. No one who waits for him will be put to shame. **Psalms 25:3**

**Scott Hubbard** is a graduate of **Bethlehem College & Seminary** and an editor for *www.desiringGod.org*. He and his wife, Bethany, live in Minneapolis.

‘One of the stresses of modern living is that we expect to get what we want almost immediately. When things don’t happen quickly it builds tension which is not good for us. The message of waiting has always been needed, but today more than ever. This little book is very quick to read, but the wisdom from God that it contains needs to be taken in. It is worth its weight in gold!’

**Rev. Canon Madeline Light**

*Vicar of St Stephen’s, Norwich.*

‘John Wright has given us a profoundly helpful summary of a book on a subject that people like me need to take to heart. As Christians we can easily be caught up in the “I want it now” spirit of our times. Again and again in the Bible we have this call to wait, not as passive resignation, but as an anticipation that God will do new things’.

**The Rt. Rev Gavin Reid**

*Former Bishop of Maidstone and Chairman of Mission England.*



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