

WAITING ROOM

(Incomplete Obedience Part 4)

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

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What is it like in a waiting room? It is not fun to be hanging around in a waiting room. We dread to walk in it because we know it is not easy spending time in this space. One of the hardest waiting rooms to experience is God's waiting room. It is precisely in this room where our patience and perseverance are put to a severe test, but at the same time, it is where we are brought down to our knees in fervent prayers.

1. The "Patience of Job"

1.1. When someone exhibits great endurance through all kinds of trials, annoyances or provocations, we say that person has the "patience of Job" (James 5:10-11).

1.2. Job's patience stands out among the many Old Testament examples because his story is extreme in the amount of suffering he endured. He nobly persevered in the face of overwhelming hardships:

- He lost all of his 10 children and his wealth in a single day;
- His whole body was covered in painful sores, his wife offered him no support, encouraged him to give up, curse God and die;
- His friends falsely accused him of wrongdoing, blamed his troubles on his unrepentant heart.

1.3 Despite Job's excruciating suffering and tragic loss, he remained faithful to and confidently hopeful in God and proclaimed "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord!" (Job 1:21), and "Though He slay me, yet I will trust Him" (Job 13:15).

1.4 God tested Job's faith and refined his character. He emerged from his ordeal a better and wiser man who exhibited extra-ordinary patience and remarkable endurance amidst the upheaval of life.

2. Why Wait Patiently?

2.1 Patience reveals our faith in God's timing, in His omnipotence and in His great love for us.

2.2 We patiently wait because of God's steadfastness and faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22-23) and His sovereignty. These titles of God remind us that God sits on the throne and is in control; He is working behind the scene while we are in His waiting room. The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18). God promised He will finish and complete what He has begun in our lives (Philippians 1:6).

Conclusion:

Today, the great patience of Job serves as an inspiration to us who are confronted with struggles and difficulties. Let us learn to be still while in God's waiting room. We should keep being steadfast in our faith and trust in the Lord, and rest with utmost confidence in His sovereignty. Job's God is the same God who will give us victory. In the end, we will likewise be blessed beyond measure.

Reflection:

1. What do you do when you find yourself in God's waiting room?
2. What blessings were poured upon you because of your faithfulness in the face of adversities and sufferings?

Prayer:

Lord, whenever life is crashing around us, and we wonder if we would make it through, please give us the grace to love and worship you even during awful trials and persecutions, to have faith and be shaped in waiting, and to be found faithful through it all. In Jesus' name. AMEN!

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