

Walking In The Way Of Jesus; **When God Says Wait**
Considering the path from the tomb to the world

Troy Miller reading pages from *Forgotten God* by Francis Chan

We have been looking into practical nuggets from Acts 16 the past several weeks.
When God says “No”, “Don’t”, or “Stop”
When God says “Yes”, “Do”, or “Go”
Today, When God says “Wait”.

Luke 24:49 NIV

*I am going to send you what my Father has promised; **but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.***”

Acts 1:4 NKJV

*⁴ And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, **but to wait for the Promise of the Father,** “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me;*

Let’s not forget that this entire launching of the church at Pentecost began by them waiting for ten days after Christ’s ascension.

He was with them for 40 days then they were waiting for 10 days.

50 days between the resurrection and the day of Pentecost. (Feast of Pentecost was 50 days after Passover)

Acts 17:15-21&32-34 ESV

¹⁵ Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

*¹⁶ **Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens,** his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.*

*³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” ³³ So Paul went out from their midst. ³⁴ **But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.***

For many of us, this is probably the more challenging of the responses from God. This is the one that seems to really rock many of us.....”Wait”.

The first two responses from God may create a range of emotions but a “No” or a “Yes” also creates a definitive answer.

“Wait” is undefined and open ended which makes it very difficult for many of us.

We tend to ask these questions:

Wait for what?

How long do I have to wait?

When will I know the answer?

What is the reason I have to wait?

Am I waiting for someone to tell me or help me?

Why are you making me wait?

You know I hate to wait!!!

Waiting creates “delayed gratification”. (some refer to as deferred gratification) This is the ability to resist the temptation of an immediate reward in favor of a more valuable and long-lasting reward later. It involves forgoing a smaller, immediate pleasure to achieve a larger or more enduring benefit in the future.

Skill set that is needed would be patience, impulse control, willpower, self-control, and the newer term, self-regulation.

The opposite of delayed gratification is “instant gratification”. This is becoming a greater pressure point for most of us, especially our children and young people since they are being raised in an instant gratification world.

There is a constant cultural pressure for instantaneous communication & response, instantaneous access, instantaneous food, instantaneous information, instantaneous pleasure, and even instantaneous love.

Romans 12:2 JB Phillips NT

“Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within,”

Waiting is counter cultural

Remember our study of Jesus teaching we call the sermon on the mount? How did we refer to His teaching? We call it the Upside Down Kingdom. (show old slide from teaching series)

Input from men at prayer group:

Why do we make it so difficult to accept that Gods’ got us?

Isaiah 40:31 NKJV *But **those who wait on the Lord** Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*

We need to learn to wait.

Romans 8:25 NIV *But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*
We need to have patience.

Romans 12:12 NLT

Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

Confident expectations in our waiting.

Waiting does not mean that we are not active in our faith.

Waiting is part of God's plan

Patience, endurance, and waiting are highlighted as important aspects of faith and obedience throughout Acts and the NT narrative.

Early Christ followers were called to wait on God for guidance as well as strength as they faced various trials, hardships, and challenges.

Grace and faith are the basis for our relationship with Father through Jesus by His Spirit.

It is faith and grace that allow us to learn to trust Him and wait on Him.

It has always been the way of godly waiting.

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

The act of waiting on the Lord is often tied to faithful endurance, reliance on His timing, and the expectation of His deliverance or guidance.

This waiting is not passive but involves seeking God, putting trust in His character, and anticipating His intervention in our lives.

Waiting on God involves surrendering our plans and timelines to Him, embracing His will and direction, and growing in faith and reliance on His faithfulness. I

t's a transformative process that deepens our relationship with God as it aligns our hearts and purposes with His.

Ultimately, waiting on God is an expression of faith, hope, and trust in His providence as well as His goodness.

Galatians 5:5 NKJV *For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.*

Relational closeness and intimacy make a difference in our ability to wait on the Lord.

Are you responding with faith and confidence when God does not say "No" or "Yes" but "Wait"?