

Waiting for Answers

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Bible Reading: Isaiah 40:31, Psalm 46:10a, Philippians 4:6, Luke 18:1; Mark 1:35; John 16:24

But 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.

Be still, and know that I am God . . .

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.

Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

Have you prayed to God and thought you received no response? You shared the deepest longings of your heart and felt your needs were flung into the stars, drawn into a hopeless, black hole. You may feel weary and worn out, empty, burdened by deep concern. Maybe you've given up talking to God, figuring He doesn't care.

Don't despair. You are God's child and He answers all prayers, in His perfect time. The silence of God does not mark the indifference of God.

We live in a world of instant potatoes, pudding, coffee, mail and cash. Could it be that we crave an instant God, too? When we pray, do we expect an answer like our instant pudding, ready in five minutes? God has a glorious hope and a plan for us, but He doesn't give us instant pudding answers.

Sometimes, He wants us to wait for an answer. We stand in grocery lines to buy our instant products and in ATM lines to access our cash. We wait in sweet anticipation for the weekend and plan our vacations months in advance. Is waiting for God different?

There are no lineups and no need to stand waiting for rest for our weary souls. We listen for His small voice deep within to comfort to give direction. There's no need to lug home heavy bags; just leave our packages of need and concern with Him. The verse from Isaiah 40:31 in the Bible

reading above, says that those who hope (wait) upon God 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.

But why does God desire that we sometimes wait for prayer answers? He knows what we need and our heart's burdens before we form our requests. We rejoice in a "Yes" or resign ourselves to a "No," but when "Wait, My child," is whispered, we can feel frustrated and helpless, crying out: "Why must I wait?"

In waiting, we learn to trust Him as we depend on His wisdom, not our own. We can experience the joy of resting in Him, clasping God's hand as we greet each day with faith, knowing He holds our future.

Prayer is the communion of two hearts, yours and God's. We appeal to Him to answer our deepest desires, and He wraps His arms of love around us as He answers in His time and His way. The eternal God, who is the keeper of time, longs to fill us with peace and abundant joy as we pray.

As you trust in God and wait upon Him, consider starting a prayer journal. List your prayers, the dates you prayed and the dates you felt God answered. Your soul will rejoice when you see God's amazing activity in your life.

Are not the beautiful, lasting things in life worth waiting for? ☪

How should I pray?

- Practise being alone with God; spend a few minutes in silence each day.
- Use simple, everyday language; God understands.
- Practise "prayer moments" as you go about your day.
- Give your burdens to God and leave them with Him. Trust that God is big enough to carry your cares for you.
- Begin and end your prayers in thanksgiving and praise.
- Journal your prayer requests, and God's amazing answers.