

WAITING ON GOD

"The Gift of Waiting"

Key Passages

Psalm 27:14 — "Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD."

Psalm 40:1-3 — "I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God."

Study Focus

They had been waiting three years for a diagnosis that actually fit. Three years of evaluations, conflicting opinions, labels that described some symptoms but missed the most important ones. Amy had prayed for clarity every single day—specifically, persistently, faithfully—and waited. Some days the waiting felt like trust. Other days it felt like being slowly erased.

Waiting is one of the defining spiritual experiences of special needs parenting. We wait for diagnoses, for therapies to show results, for school systems to respond, for healing, for breakthrough. We wait for our child's first word, first step, first friend. And unlike most waiting—which ends—some of what we wait for may not arrive in the form or timeframe we hope for.

Psalm 27:14 is a double imperative: "Wait for the LORD... wait for the LORD." The repetition is intentional. The psalmist is not casually suggesting patience—he is commanding it twice, as if aware that the first instruction will not be easy to sustain. The accompanying commands—"be strong and take heart"—acknowledge that waiting is not passive. It is an active, effortful posture that requires ongoing strength.

Psalm 40 gives us the "after"—not as a guarantee of a specific outcome, but as a testimony of God's pattern. He heard. He lifted. He set feet on solid ground. He gave a new song. Amy's waiting is not void or meaningless. When God finally acts, He acts fully—not just fixing the immediate problem, but transforming the person. The new song isn't just relief; it is a changed person singing a changed song.

Discussion Qs

Couples

1. What are you currently waiting for together as a family—a diagnosis, a breakthrough, an answered prayer?
2. How does waiting affect your marriage—does it bring you together in shared hope, or does it create tension?
3. How do you sustain hope together when something you've prayed for has remained unanswered for a long time?
4. What does "waiting with strength and courage" look like in your actual daily life—not as a platitude, but as a practice?
5. How do you help each other return to trust when waiting becomes discouraging?

Dads

1. What are you most tired of waiting for, and how has extended waiting affected your faith?
2. How do you lead your family with hope and stability when you yourself are losing patience?
3. What is the difference for you between faithful waiting and denial—between trusting God and avoiding reality?
4. When God has acted in the past, even differently than you expected—has it strengthened your ability to wait now?
5. What helps you "be strong and take heart" on the days when waiting feels most costly?

Moms

1. What prayer have you been praying the longest, and how has your relationship with that prayer changed over time?
2. How do you keep hoping for specific things for your child without letting unanswered hope become a source of pain?
3. When God seems silent in a season of waiting, how do you keep showing up—in prayer, in faith, in daily life?
4. Have you ever experienced God "lifting you from the pit"—setting your feet on solid ground after a long wait? What was that like?
5. What new song might God be putting in your mouth, even now—even before the waiting is fully over?

Application: Name one thing you have been waiting on God for. Write it down, date it, and commit to praying over it specifically for the next 30 days—tracking what you notice about your own heart in the process.