



God's Purpose in Waiting

2 Peter 3:11-16

Message Reflection Guide

It's true that patience is a fruit of the Spirit, but nobody actually likes to wait. Yet the fact of the matter is, everyday we're forced to wait – sometimes for things we need and sometimes for things we just want. Statistics show that the average person spends close to an hour everyday waiting for something – elevators, traffic lights, your turn at the intersection, your turn to pay at the grocery store, a cup of coffee, a table or your food at a restaurant, the computer to load, and even the microwave...which is supposed to keep us from waiting for the oven! When you add up all that waiting over a lifespan of 70 years, the average person will spend more than 3 years of their lives WAITING for something to happen. The real problem isn't the waiting – it's what happens in our hearts while we wait. For too many of us, waiting creates a downward spiral of impatience, frustration, selfishness and anger in our hearts. While waiting in line, we find flaws with the people in front of us. And if this is how we respond to other people, what happens in our hearts when God makes us wait? God wants you to live with great expectations – with a constant, enduring sense that God is for you, that He loves you deeply and will at any moment move in power on your behalf.

■ Tony Evans

CONVERSATION STARTER

Describe a time when you had to wait for something recently.

GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES

Read 2 Peter 3:11-16

Brandon said, “**While we wait for Jesus's return, we have the opportunity to grow and share our faith.**” How does Peter describe our opportunities to grow while we wait for Jesus's return? How are you growing your faith, personally, while you wait?

While waiting, pursue Holiness and Godliness. What does holiness and godliness mean? How does your righteousness compare to God's standards?

While waiting, hasten the coming of the day of God. How is it possible that Christians can speed up Christ's return? How can you be proclaiming Christ's Kingdom to your circle of influence?

While waiting be ready to be found without spot or blemish. How will Jesus's return be like a wedding day? Read Hebrews 4:11. How can you enter the rest of salvation through Jesus?

MAKING IT REAL

Are you growing in your faith? Are you sharing your faith with others? How can you lean into the “grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?”