

## **Wait.**

### **Part 1: Waiting on God in a World That Won't Wait**

*1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; various Scriptures*

Sunday, October 14, 2012

## **We live in an instant world.**

## **But a Christian is designed for waiting.**

Paul's description of the believers at Thessalonica (1Thessalonians 1:9-10):

You turned (to God, from idols)

- to serve God

- to await Christ

- God's Son

- out of heaven

- raised from the dead

- rescuing us from the coming wrath

## **And a Christian is defined by waiting.**

God's people have been defined this way throughout history.

- Psalm 147:11

- Hebrews 9:28

## **And the Bible is a book about waiting.**

[see the addendum below for a list of "waiting" vocabulary in the Bible.]

## **So, what are we waiting for?**

## Addendum: the vocabulary of waiting.

[primary resources: BDB, TWOT, BDAG, TDNT]

קָוָה (qawa) - to wait for, to endure, to remain, or to await. This word seems to have originally carried the idea of ropes, threads, or cords stretched and under tension. To wait or to look for with eager expectation. Waiting with steadfast endurance is a great expression of faith. It means enduring patiently in confident hope that God will decisively act for the salvation of His people.

Genesis 49:18 (NASB95)  
“For Your salvation I **wait**, O Lord.

Psalms 130:5–6 (NASB95)  
I **wait** for the Lord, my soul does **wait**,  
And in His word do I hope.  
My soul **waits** for the Lord  
More than the watchmen for the morning;  
*Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning.*

יָחַל (yahal) - to wait, to hope. Tarrying, confident expectation, trust. In LXX, translated 19 times with ἐλπίζω. This is not a wish of the imagination, but a hope that is the solid ground of expectation, directed towards God. Psalm 69:3. Psalm 37:7.

Psalms 37:7 (NASB95)  
Rest in the Lord and **wait patiently** for Him;  
Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,  
Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.

Psalms 69:3 (NASB95)  
I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched;  
My eyes fail while I **wait** for my God.

חָכָה (haka) - to wait, tarry. An attitude of earnest expectation and confident hope.

Psalms 33:20 (NASB95)  
Our soul **waits** for the Lord;  
He is our help and our shield.

דָּמַם (damam) - to be or grow silent or still; to wait. Used of being still before Yahweh in quiet meditation.

Psalm 62:1,5 (NASB95)  
My soul **waits in silence** for God only;  
From Him is my salvation.  
My soul, **wait in silence** for God only,  
For my hope is from Him.

προσδέχομαι (prosdechomai) - to await, with the idea of expectation.

Mark 15:43 (NASB95)  
Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was **waiting** for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

περιμένω (perimeno) - to expect, to wait, to stand still.

Acts 1:4 (NASB95)  
Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but **to wait** for what the Father had promised, "Which," *He said*, "you heard of from Me;

ἀπεκδέχομαι (apekdechomai) - to await eagerly, to wait patiently.

Romans 8:19 (NASB95)  
For the anxious longing of the creation **waits eagerly** for the revealing of the sons of God.

ἀναμένω (anameno) - to wait for, to expect someone or something.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NASB95)  
and **to wait** for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

μακροθυμέω / μακροθυμία (makrothumeo / makrothumia) - to be longsuffering (verb). longsuffering, steadfastness (noun). God is longsuffering with sinful people. He restrains and postpones His just wrath. Longsuffering in God's people is not self-generated but is a gift from God and a fruit of His Spirit. This longsuffering and uncompromising steadfastness in the Christian is grounded in the return of Christ.

**Hebrews 6:15 (NASB95)**

And so, **having patiently waited**, he obtained the promise.

**Galatians 5:5 (NASB95)**

For we through the Spirit, by faith, are **waiting** for the hope of righteousness.

ἐκδέχομαι (ekdechomai) - to remain in a place or state and await an event or the arrival of someone. to expect, to wait.

**Hebrews 10:12–13 (NASB95)**

but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, **waiting** from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet.

ὑπομένω / ὑπομονή (hupomeno / hupomonae) - Toward God: to expect, to wait. Toward the world: to stand fast, to persevere. Greeks upheld as a virtue the idea of standing erect against an external factor with being disturbed or unsettled by it; staying calm without excitement, fear, or passion in the face of the assaults of an enemy. The Greeks viewed the power or strength of endurance as coming from within. In the LXX, the word was used to translate קוּה, יְחַל, and חִכָּה. Toward God, the word conveyed the idea of continued and persevering expectation under tension. Tense expectation and hope. Unlike the Greek concept, the OT viewed the source of this endurance coming from cleaving to God and from confident expectation of His power and purpose. Toward the world the word meant to endure, to stand fast, to bear patiently. In the NT, this endurance becomes a basic attitude of the Christian in a hostile world under which he must endure patiently as he waits for God. This attitude is not the product of personal bravery or Stoic callous. This patient endurance is grounded in faith and hope (1 Peter 2:20, Colossians 1:11, and Romans 8:25). This is an endurance grounded in waiting. Waiting for Jesus and persevering under difficulty. If its parts can be separated, "to abide under." Matthew 10:22.

**2 Corinthians 1:6 (NASB95)**

But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the **patient enduring** of the same sufferings which we also suffer;

Matthew 10:22 (NASB95)

“You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has **endured** to the end who will be saved.

ἀνεξικακος (anexikakos) - bearing evil without resentment, patient, tolerant. 2 Timothy 2:24.

2 Timothy 2:24 (NASB95)

The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, **patient** when wronged,

φέρω (fero) - to bear a burden. Moses could not bear the burden of the people anymore (Numbers 11:14); the Servant of Yahweh bears the sins of the people (Isaiah 53:4). With great long-suffering God bears those who will be objects of his wrath.

Romans 9:22 (NASB95)

What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, **endured** with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?

ὑποφέρω (hupofero) - to bear up under difficulty, to endure.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB95)

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able **to endure** it.

ἀνέχομαι (anechomai) - to tolerate, endure, bear with, put up with. To undergo something troublesome without giving in.

1 Corinthians 4:12 (NASB95)

and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we **endure**;

2 Thessalonians 1:4 (NASB95)

therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you **endure**.

στέγω (stego) - to endure.

1 Corinthians 9:12 (NASB95)

If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we **endure** all things so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

κακοποθέω (kakopothéo) - to endure evil, to know how to bear evil. Not to be overcome by affliction and adversity, but to endure them.

2 Timothy 4:5 (NASB95)

But you, be sober in all things, **endure** hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

συγκακουχέομαι (sugkakoucheomai) - to suffer, be mistreated with someone else.

Hebrews 11:25 (NASB95)

choosing rather to **endure ill-treatment with** the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

καρτερέω (kartereo) - to endure, to suffer. Used only in the NT in Hebrews 11:27. There, faith is the ground of suffering a difficult situation. Faith in God makes endurance possible.

Hebrews 11:27 (NASB95)

By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he **endured**, as seeing Him who is unseen.

αποκαρδοκία (apokaradokia) - stretching the head forward. To await with confident expectation.

Romans 8:19 (NASB95)

For the anxious longing of the creation **waits eagerly** for the revealing of the sons of God.

ἐπιποθέω (epipotheo) - to have a strong desire for something, with the implication of need. To long for, desire.

2 Corinthians 5:2 (NASB95)

For indeed in this *house* we groan, **longing** to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,

ἐλπίζω / ἐλπίς (elpidzo / elpis) - to hope (verb). hope (noun). Confident expectation of good. Closely linked with trust. Biblical hope is directed toward God, His power, and His purpose on behalf of His people. A quiet waiting for God. In the NT hope is fixed on God and embraces expectation of the future, trust, and patient waiting. This is the certainty of trust in the promises of God. This is not as the Greek (or current vernacular) use of hope - wishful thinking. Rather, hope in Scripture is a confidence in and eager waiting for: 1) God, and 2) the future God has declared but we have not yet experienced.

Romans 5:2 (NASB95)

through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in **hope** of the glory of God.

Romans 8:25 (NASB95)

But if we **hope** for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Hebrews 6:19 (NASB95)

This **hope** we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,

\*\*One could continue this list with related words and ideas: faith, trust, resting, steadfastness, suffering, tolerating, bearing, enduring, etc. These words and ideas all have in common an element of time. These are attitudes of confident waiting on God when my circumstances (for now) are unpleasant and unchanging.

\*\*\*One could also investigate the future tense verbs in the Bible. Many of them are promises from God about the future, the Kingdom, or the Eternal State. These are certain realities guaranteed by God but not yet possessed by God's people. See, for example, 1Timothy 6:14-15.