

A. PURPOSES

- Last week we looked at the basic truth that we are human beings who daily face the challenges of living within the constraints of time. And that means waiting!
- Though we are bound by time, God is not: Ps 90:2 TV -- Before mountains were born, before You fashioned the earth and filled it with life, from ages past to distant futures, You are *truly* God.
- If God knows the end from the beginning and is all powerful, then why does He make us wait? (Is 46:10, Jer 32:17)
- Psalm 27 concludes with our thesis for the series and highlights how we have a choice as we wait on God: Ps 27:13 -- I would have 1) despaired unless 2) I had believed I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
- Studying what led to this conclusion will help us understand some of God's purposes in waiting: Psalm 27:1-6 – The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
²When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. ³Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I *will be* confident.
⁴One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.
⁵For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. ⁶And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore, I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.
- God called David to many seasons of waiting. In the waiting God David got to know God and see His goodness -- Who God is and Who He wants to be for His people:
 1. Light
 - In dark times, when challenged by internal and external opponents, God is our Light. Scripture tells us that dark and light are alike to Him! (Ps 139:12)
 - The Hebrew word for "light" used here means illumination, clarity, brightness, day, morning, and sun (Strong's H216)
 - We, too, can declare in dark times, "God is my light."
 2. Salvation
 - As believers, our ultimate salvation has been accomplished by Jesus' finished work on the Cross. Now His daily salvation is also ours.
 - The word for salvation means we can count on God for liberty, rescue, deliverance, safety, welfare, and victory in the here and now! (Strong's H3468)
 - While WOG, let's ask the Lord to show us His salvation, rescue, victory, etc.
 3. Strength
 - God Himself was the strength of David's life. He possessed many strengths but had experienced the superiority of the Lord's supernatural strength.
 - The strength of God means He is our refuge, defense, stronghold, fortified place, and source of protection. (Strong's H4581)
 - We all need to be strengthened in our inner man and God promises to do that! (Eph 3:16) He is our defender and protector when from outside opposition.

- It's easy to see from this Scripture that waiting isn't as much about an outcome as it is about getting to know God personally and intimately.

- LISTENING EXERCISE

If waiting is going to be an inevitable part of our lives, let's ask ourselves:

Am I willing to capitalize on my waiting time by getting to know more of God and to learn to trust Him at a greater depth?

*What's standing in the way of my willingness to wait well? Holy Spirit, show me!
(Ex: loss of control, people pleasing, don't know how, sense of unworthiness...)*

Pray this way: "Lord, I am willing to be willing. Please help me to see that Your light, Your salvation and Your strength are greater than anything that's holding me back."

- Insights:

B. PROCESS

- Psalm 27 demonstrates several strategies that David used to process his thoughts and feelings about his circumstances while waiting on God:
 1. Names of God (v. 1)
 - The many names of God in Scripture each emphasize something about Who He is and the works He has done. Grow in knowing God by applying them in prayer.
 - Proverbs 18:10 -- The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.
 - Use the handout "Tools & Techniques: Call on the Name of the Lord" as a supplemental resource. It can help expand your application of this strategy
 2. Remember The Deeds (vv. 2-3)
 - Thinking back on the times when God showed us His pathway, rescued us from the enemy, or gave us strength to endure gives us faith for today's struggles.
 - Rev 12:11 -- They overcame (the accuser of the brethren) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony

3. Practice His Presence (vv. 4-6a)

- Spending time in God's presence was David's primary strategy for overcoming. In fact, it was his top priority, his "one thing" and his secret place of security.
- In the Secret Place of His presence we:
 - a) get a taste of His goodness and beauty (Ps 34:8)
 - b) inquire of/pray for wisdom (Ps 32:8)
 - c) find a hiding place from the stressors that come with waiting and trials (Ps 32:7)
 - d) receive solid rock truth to stand upon (Dt 32:4)
 - e) discover how God causes us to rise above our circumstances (Ps 61:2)

4. Praise (v. 6b)

- Praising God is a powerful strategy because it strengthens our faith in God and His truth. It also ministers to us emotionally during seasons of waiting & beyond.
 - Ps 22:3-- But You are holy, O You who inhabits the praises of Israel.
 - Ps 92:1-- *It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High*
 - Ps 8:2 NLT-- You have taught children and infants to tell of your strength, silencing your enemies and all who oppose you.
- Using these biblical strategies in times of waiting enables us to connect with God in ways that will help us to know and trust Him more.
 - LISTENING EXERCISE:
*Take a few moments to consider the 4 strategies we see in our passage:
 (Names of God. Remember the Deeds, Practice His Presence, and Praise)*

Are there any of these practices that you are already enjoying on a regular basis?

Lord, which of these strategies would be my best next step in knowing You and seeing Your goodness in the places where I am waiting?

*Please show me some specifics to help me personally engage in this strategy:
 (Which situation, what timing, what to set aside to make room for, etc.)*

- As we seek to connect to God's purposes in our waiting, let us eagerly enter into the process by expanding our interactions Him.
- May we trust HS to remind us to practice our strategy this week in order to process the areas where we are waiting.
- He longs to make Himself known to us in greater depth and to show us His goodness each day!
- Insights:

C. PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ONE THING
 - The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

- PONDER THE TRUTH

Which verse or principle stood out to you this week? Write it below taking some time to review it often. Be still in God's presence, alert for new insights. Record them here.

- PROCESSING THE TRUTH

Prayerfully consider the Listening Exercises from this lesson. Ask the Spirit to guide you into a deeper understanding of the truth and to reveal any specific faith steps He is calling you to take. Write down your insights.

D.