

Waiting

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I can honestly say that I've never met someone who enjoys waiting though I'm sure that such a person exists; I've just not met them yet. Let me tell you that I am not that person; my patience meter is usually running on empty on any given day. Needless to say, this current perpetual state of waiting has been very difficult for me as it's been for many of you.

Yet God is asking us to wait! Millions of believers around the world are praying and seeking God for an end to this crisis and no one knows when that time will be.

This reminds me of the Israelites who waited 400 years for deliverance and even then, God took them the long way around, through the desert, to get to the Promised Land. As we have studied their journey and reflected on their response, we have often criticized their grumbling, lack of faith and trust in God. You can read the account in [Exodus 13-17](#).

But how are we measuring up in the face of COVID-19 in 2020?

I've read somewhere that in an average lifetime of 80 years, we spend approximately six of those years waiting. Of course, not all at once, but broken down into chunks of time; waiting at traffic lights, in lines at various places for services, waiting on people, waiting for a response to a question, for a baby to arrive, for a call back from our doctor, a job offer, and the like. It all adds up. It begs the question about how our waiting, during this time of COVID-19, will affect that average of six years!

Waiting is not easy, even for the most patient person but it does not have to be unbearable. I have found that waiting is less painful when I shift my focus.

May I share three ways that have consistently helped me to shift focus during extended periods of waiting:

1. **Refining my worship** - Waiting reveals the "thing" that we worship the most. Our worship can be aimed at success, acquisitions, something, or someone other than God. I've learned to increase my worship of Jesus while I wait on him and I do so by saturating myself with his Word, being in constant communion with him through prayer, and surrounding myself with uplifting music that glorifies God.
2. **Recalling God's unchanging faithfulness in my life** - As someone who journals on a regular basis, this has been easy for me to do. During this current time, I have spent hours re-reading journals from several years ago and I have been reminded of and astounded by the many times when God showed up for me in miraculous ways. Will he do it again? Absolutely!
3. **Preparing for my next season** - I recognize that this term "season" is one that we (Christians) frequently use which may cause it to lose its effectiveness. I do believe that, just like God's natural order has distinctive seasons such as spring, summer, fall, and winter; so too do our lives. I don't always recognize when I am heading out of a season, but I have come to distinguish when I am being prepared for a next season. I believe that "The Church" is in a time of preparation for its next season.

As I have been reflecting on this time, I discovered this worship song by Lincoln Brewster, "While I Wait" which had me completely undone. I urge you to listen to the lyrics of this song which I believe will encourage you today.

By: Yolande A. Knight