The coaches leave and tell the captains the team is theirs. It is Thanksgiving Day and it is senior year of high school and we are going for a clean sweep over our hated rivals the Darien Blue Wave. We are all huddled around in our make shift locker room in the wrestling room with the locker rooms under construction. I stand in the middle of the huddle with my fellow seniors as everyone settles in close to one another. I can hear the rain coming down in the room that’s how hard it is coming down a downpour. We are all in our New Canaan traditional uniforms Red tops with Gray lettering and gray pants that look a little big for most of us and we have our red helmets with black white and gray stripes down the middle and a beautiful earned black NC on the side. As the doors close and the coaches leave Dan gives a speech in the middle of the team to get us ready and when he is done I yell at 1, 2, 3 and we all yell in unison, N C Pride! And we turn and lead the team out of the wrestling room and into the hallway as the sound of the cleats step by step to the rhythm of our feet and louder and louder they get as more folks leave the room. And we burst through the doors as we learn that the banner that the cheerleaders hold are in place. As we are waiting I cant wait to get the game underway so that we can take them to task and beat them just as we did the last three years. I had not lost one game to them and you especially cant your senior year because that is the one that matters and so we have to win the game and I am anxious, excited, and worked up all in one. Waiting for the kickoff in order to be let loose. And so we see the sign and run out to the field through the line of cheerleaders, through the banner and to midfield jump around and head to the sideline for the national anthem lifting our helmets up as the recording hits the land of the free and the home of the brave. And the coin toss happens and I am getting more and more excited and pumped up ready to burst at the seems. And finally the kick off is set the ball is in the air and its time for the defense to hit the field and I take my place at right defensive tackle placing my hands in the dirt and the center snaps the ball and I take off.

There are many things in this world that we wait for to begin what we have been training for, waiting to be let loose on the world, waiting to finally be able to live into who we are. The person in the race is waiting for the gun to go off, or waiting for the flag to drop and begin the nascar race to be released to put training into practice. The boxer in the ring waits for the man to say lets get ready to rumble and dap gloves. The performer waits for the curtains to open before they can perform. Every year we wait in anticipation for the ball to drop in order to be the next version of ourselves. As a kid we cant wait to blow out the candles in order to blow out candles and chow down on some cake. We wait to graduate, we wait for the first day of work or internship, we wait for a pay check, we wait for the calendar to reach our vacation date. We wait for our drivers license. We are constantly waiting for something so that we can move forward and use out talents. We are waiting for

As a player we had to wait for the kickoff and the whistle for each play we wait so that we can finally get to what we have trained for and prepared for and that is what the disciples were waiting for as well. They had walked with Jesus, listened to Jesus speak, teach, and preach. They heard stories, heard parables, had parables explained to them, and heard Jesus pray. They saw miracles, performed miracles, and taught themselves. For a couple years Jesus was working with and in his disciples shaping them and preparing them for his departure so that they could face the challenges that lied ahead of them and so that they can perform the work God had prepared for them. And now they have witnessed Jesus be resurrected from the dead, and he is about to ascend into heaven and Jesus is telling them, I know you are excited, I know you are anxious, I know you are stressed out, I know you are scared, I know you are ready, I know you are capable, I know you have the anointing, I know you sat at my feet and soaked everything in, I know you dedicated yourself to me, and I know you will accomplish great things, but the time is not yet. The disciples have to wait until the Holy Spirit descends on them, and once the Holy Spirit does they will be off to the races and the rest is history. The Holy Spirit descends 10 days later on Pentecost, and as soon as they leave the upper room Peter gives the first sermon and people follow Jesus right there on the spot and the church is born and growing in hour number one.

It’s a great story and unfortunately life doesn’t always work like that. Our experiences can be different, not because God has not showed up, instead because we are so hesitant that we do not see God arriving right in front of us, we don’t see the Holy Spirit descending even with the flaming fire above us. We become so used to waiting, or so scared to move forward that we convince ourselves that what was God was nothing and that we are still waiting for God.

I am reminded of the joke/story of the man that is going through a flood. The tidal wave has come in and he is on his roof waiting for God to rescue him. And as he is waiting for God to rescue him, a person with something like a rowboat comes by telling him to get in the boat and he tells the person to keep going, God will provide for him a rescue.. Then next a bigger boat and the same thing, and then the coast guard, and the same thing, and finally a rescue chopper and the same thing and unfortunately the man dies and when he gets to heaven he asks God why didn’t He save him. And God tells him he tried but he refused the help of the boats and the chopper. And so often we can be that man on the roof of the proverbial house and we are waiting for God to rescue us or to tell us its time and that God has showed up, and we miss it for one reason or another.

And what I want you to know is that God has shown up. The Spirit has descended and the power has entered into you. God has given you the right ahead. I don’t know what it might be in your life that you are waiting for a sign but I would look back over your waiting period and search again to see if that sign that you have been waiting for has come and gone. Because we can easily convince ourselves that God has not given the signal when the light has been green all along. You have seen the signs and the red flags telling you its time to move on. You have seen the signs and the doors opening and its time to walk right through them.

Sometimes we find ourselves waiting so much though that we can not notice the fact that the flag has already been dropped, the ball has been kicked, the candles are lit and it passes us by. I know sports and candles are not the same as life, but in life