When I was in high school the sport that I enjoyed the most was football. I enjoyed the camaraderie, I enjoyed the winning, I enjoyed the individual aspect of beating the blocker in front of me when I was on defense, and when I was on offense I enjoyed blocking and pancaking the kid in front of me. I enjoyed the satisfactory of our offense scoring a touchdown and our defense forcing a punt or a turnover. I just loved the game. And my senior year we won a state championship. But that state championship was not the result of just waking up and stepping out of bed and walking out onto the football field laced up and ready to go.

I wish it really was but every off season we worked and worked and worked to get into shape, to learn the playbook, to understand the defensive and offensive schemes and learn the game more and more. We knew what we wanted to do and we had to wait to do it. The state championship was not the first game of the season. The playoffs didn’t end one year and the next season start right away. We had to wait months to get our chance and during that month we prepared to be the best we could be.

And what did this look like? It looked like a trip down to Troy University down in Alabama, taking a commercial flight to Tallahasse and then busing to Alabama. It looked like 100 degree heat and even hotter on the turf in order to learn a completely new offense. IT looked like hour long runs through the woods in order to condition. It looked like 16 straight 110 meter dashes in the summer. It looked like several days a week going to a strength and condition training facility. It looked like watching dvds of the new offense in order to be ready by training camp. It looked like digging holes out in the heat, biking to practice and blood sweat and tears all on the ground. It looked like two adays in order to get ready for that first game of the year. This is everything we had to do while we waited for the season to start, so that we can march down to the state championship game. And once opening day was here and we were wearing our Jerseys we knew we had a job to do and set out to do it.

We have all had to wait for something, even the disciples.

Jesus has been risen from the dead and he appeared to the disciples and he has ben busy for 40 straight days. And now he returns to the disciples and he is speaking to them and he prays for them, and the disciples are probably ready to go. This is what they have been waiting for. Waiting for Jesus to hand over the mantle to them after he tells them that one greater than he is coming. And instead of just releasing them to the world Jesus tells them that they have to wait. IT is not time for them to take the reins.

And during this time of waiting which is not just the previous forty days. They are waiting has been ever since they answered the call from Jesus for them to follow Him in the affirmative. Several years have passed. Countless stories have been heard. Countless teachings have been listened to. Countless parables have been shared and learned form. Countless miracles have taken place. Countless prayers have been shared. Countless gatherings around the dinner table and the fire. Countless people have been helped. Countless blessings bestowed. Countless lives changed and now some more waiting because the time has not yet come And so the time has come in their eyes and Jesus says wait ten more days. But he doesn’t tell them to just do nothing, he tells them to wait in Jerusalem until the power from on high comes.

You see, when we are waiting for what God is bringing us, or waiting to begin the calling that God ahs for us, or waiting for God to deliver us, waiting for God to strengthen us we do not wait by sitting on our hands. Its easy in a world where fast, quick, and convenient is all the rage. Self checkout aisles. Pick up in the store, online ordering to save time, two day and same day delivery from amazon, we can think its going to be quick and easy with God but it never really is.

Even in our modern age of conveniences, waiting is still a big part of life. When we think of waiting, what comes to mind? We might conjure up visions of an airport terminal, a doctor’s waiting room, the line at the supermarket, or being stuck in rush hour traffic. The facts are, most of us are waiting for something most of the time:

* Maybe you are in a job situation that’s really tough to endure and you are waiting and hoping that conditions will change for the better.
* Maybe you are without a job and waiting for news on an application.
* Maybe you are ill (or have a loved one who is) and waiting for your health to improve.
* Maybe you are on a diet and waiting for your weight to drop a few pounds.
* A single person may be waiting for Mr. or Miss Right.
* Maybe you are waiting for a loved one to change their minds.
* Maybe you are waiting to leave a position.
* Maybe you are waiting to start a business.
* Maybe you are waiting to retire.
* Or maybe you are waiting for your spouse or child to become interested in spiritual things.

The simple fact is, in spite of our modern age and our dislike for waiting, life is full of waiting. And one of the most challenging exhortations of Scripture is “Wait.” But waiting, despite our impatience and our dislike for it, is a vital element in life

When we think of waiting on the Lord, there are a number of important questions that need to be answered and understood in light of the principles and promises of Scripture. Why? Because the Lord tells us to wait, and since it has some wonderful benefits, we need to know what it means to wait and how that is to be done.

WAITING INVOLVES NEGATIVES AND POSITIVES

When we think of waiting, we might envision just sitting back, not doing much of anything, just waiting for something to happen. But that is not the kind of waiting the Bible is calling for.

Waiting involves a passivity and an activity—negatives and positives—things we should do and things we should not do. These negatives and positives in relation to waiting are closely wound together like the strands in a rope. When wound together properly, they give great strength, courage, patience, and endurance.

WAITING INVOLVES SEEKING THE LORD

Lamentations 3:25 The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.

On the positive side, waiting always means seeking the Lord. When we enter God’s waiting room we are not to just sit as one might in the doctor’s chair. Rather, we need to spend time seeking Him. This means:

* **Time in the Word** studying, seeking answers, and claiming God’s promises;
* **Time in prayer** praying about the issues, praying for wisdom and discernment;
* **Time meditating** on who God is, what He is wanting to do in us and through us, and on what we need to do by way of answers and direction. Included in this might be our need to examine and evaluate our motives and attitudes, our values and priorities, and our goals and objectives in life.

WAITING INVOLVES RESTING IN GOD’S TIMING

Psalm 145:15 The eyes of all look to Thee, And Thou dost give them their food in due time.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.

Waiting means resting in God’s timing and activity while taking care of our responsibilities—the things we can do and should do as set forth in the Word of God.

On the one hand we are to rest and be still. This stands opposed to running ahead of the Lord and taking matters into our own hands and turning to our own human strategies.

WAITING MEANS TRUSTING IN GOD AND HIS GOODNESS

Psalm 62:5-8 My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him. 6 He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken. 7 On God my salvation and my glory *rest*; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. 8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah.

These verses and many others teach us that the essence of waiting is trust or faith in the nature and character of God. No one can wait on the Lord if he or she does not truly trust in God as the rock of their strength and refuge in all of life. Waiting means claiming God’s promises by faith and resting in what God is doing in our lives so we can faithfully follow God’s principles and keep His values, priorities, and pursuits.

If we do not trust God, then we will get bitter. We will believe His love or doubt it. This is the ultimate test. The testing forces us to make an important decision on how we will relate to the Lord. If we believe the Lord doesn't care for us, then we will turn to despair (I am doomed), self-help books (own resources) or bitterness. The decision to trust God is a daily\ But the truth of life is that we need God every day and as you are waiting on God, you must commit to trusting God each and every day.

Lastly Remember God’s past faithfulness.

Remembering specific prayers God has favorably answered, and how you grew spiritually through times of affliction, may instill the faith needed for current stressors, such as delays.  How has He provided financially? What relationships has He salvaged?  What did He do in your heart and character during past episodes of waiting?