

Sunday 14 April 2019

SLIDE: 1 FRUIT OF SPIRIT - PATIENCE/LONGSUFFERING THAT  
ENDURES

SLIDE 2

1. Anyone been in a waiting room recently?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nKv83HFStg> (funny clip 1:07min)

May have been doctor/dentist or waiting for a flight/train.

I don't know about you but I don't like waiting. I waited recently in my doctor's surgery, you check in on a touchscreen. I'd arrived a little early just in case. But as the minutes ticked by, and I looked around the room at others, I kept thinking – I think I've been forgotten, they've missed me. I started feeling frustrated, bit anxious as I kept checking my watch. I wanted the lady receptionist to be able to tell me exactly what was happening, but sadly no joy. As more time elapsed I was thinking would I make my next meeting, how late was this going to be? Will I actually get to see the doctor at all?! (Blocked goal) who was taking all this time?! This was someone's fault.

I'm sure I'm not alone in finding waiting hard. It's time consuming and goes against our fast paced culture, of instant messaging, fast food, super fast broadband etc instant gratification in everything. SLIDE 3: I want it all and I want it now as the Queen song goes. Patience involves waiting. Patience is: **1. the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious.**

In the waiting room we can come to many conclusions, as I did, 'I've been forgotten/missed' 'this is not going to happen' 'no one cares about my schedule!' In all these conclusions I made, my hopes and expectations were not being met. My expectation was to that I would have an appointment with the doctor at 12:30pm and leave promptly and get on with the rest of my day. This wasn't an unreasonable expectation but it was an expectation nevertheless.

2. I've been in the waiting room of life for a long time. Since I was little I've carried hopes and desires of having a husband and family. I received two prophetic words when I was a teenager and mid twenties that confirmed my desire for a husband. As a teenager I also received an amazing prophetic word from Dale Gentry (American prophet) about moving in the supernatural, seeing signs and wonders and miraculous healings. These are precious words and hopes I still carry, 30 years on. A recent prophetic word

highlighted a lie the enemy was wanting me to believe in the waiting – ‘God was holding something back, withholding my heart’s desires’. At times I believed that; and can still feel that God is delayed, and late with fulfilling His promise to me. I have had to give my disappointment and anger at myself (and Him) for it not happening sooner. I’m 45years – it feels old for a husband and family. I’ve felt it’s ‘all on me’ and I’ve tried to make it happen and failed dismally. When I ask God what should I be doing? He says believe, trust and stay open. Let hope arise. He also tells me that age is irrelevant, that I will never wither because I am planted in Him and bear good fruit. These truths and promises of God can be hard to hold onto the waiting room of life but they are vital if we are to wait well and display godly patience.

**SLIDE 4:** When we don’t see the results we’re hoping and praying for we can assume it’s a No, from God. And like me, you may feel there’s a delay, God is late. But a delay is not a refusal – big difference between ‘NO’ and ‘NOT YET’.

We will all find ourselves at some point in the waiting room of life, maybe you’re waiting on: a job opportunity, a partner, baby, new direction, healing, friends/family coming to know Him or a prodigal returning, you may be waiting for God to restore a relationship.

**SLIDE 5:** But we’re not alone in these experiences. Millions of saints before us have sat in God’s waiting room. There’s a list of them in Heb 11. Joseph waited a long time. Moses waits 40 years in the wilderness. Abraham waits 100 years before he has the promise child Isaac. Noah had to wait 120 years before it rained. God is not in a hurry, neither is He late, He is faithful and learning to wait well (demonstrating God’s patience) is essential to faith.

3. God wants us to keep our focus and trust in Him (not our circumstances and lack, or the enemy). God only has good things for us, and He wants us to keep trusting Him for those things, despite our circumstances or any waiting involved. He is often doing more and greater behind the scenes than we could imagine.

God is the ultimate waiter and patience is His gift to us as His children. In our times of struggle in the waiting we can think and cry out, ‘why doesn’t He intervene or release our desires and stop our suffering?’, why doesn’t He do these things now? The bible shows us that God knows the perfect time to act. **SLIDE 6** It says in Ecc3:11 ‘*God does everything right and on time, but people don’t understand what God is doing.*’ So this is about our understanding

and we may not realise that God always has to carry the big picture of everybody's circumstances and more importantly their eternal salvation.

**SLIDE 7** *'The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.'* 2 Peter 3:9 (NLT) So our waiting in our circumstances sits within the bigger waiting of God for all people to come to know Him and receive His salvation. We have to wait trusting His timing will be perfect for us, and crying out for His spirit to increase our patience so we can wait well.

To wait well in a nutshell is to wait on God who is trustworthy and faithful and who can reveal in us His patience. We will also have to look at the beliefs and conclusions that we've made in the waiting and receive His healing where needed.

**SLIDE 8** 4. In the waiting room of life, when our expectations don't get met and the waiting seems endless we start to feel many things. Initially we get angry – then worried, or anxious, we can begin to compare ourselves with others thinking they are more cared for or must be better in some way than us. We can be envious and resentful and ultimately bitter. Everything in us wants to blame someone for it happening and if we can't find someone else then we blame ourselves. This can lead us into disappointment, depression and hopelessness.

These feelings carry beliefs which can impact our lives going forward. God's word addresses all of these. For example, *I am forgotten, abandoned, I'm not good enough, I'm alone, I'm not worth caring for, it's impossible and hopeless nothing can change.* If any of these find an echo inside you, I want to declare God's word over you this evening and I'm believing as I speak these words the beliefs will be unseated and replaced with God's truth and hope and His patience in the waiting. Why don't you close your eyes....

5. For those of you feeling forgotten God says this to you tonight:

*"Can a mother forget her nursing child? Never! Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you!"* Isaiah 49:14-15 (NLT)

For those feeling abandoned or rejected God says:

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."* Deut 31:6 (NIV)

You may feel on your own, with no one to care for you, God says:

“Do not be afraid X, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine...” Isaiah 43:1 (x2 repeat in head your own name!)

You may feel it's impossible to see a change, tonight God says to you:

‘Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.’

You may feel all your hopes are dashed for your situation: but God says:

‘For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and give you a hope and a future.’ Jer 29:11

Another thing that would help us find fresh hope in our waiting is to give to God tonight any disappointment with ourselves or God, because disappointment undoes patiently waiting and trusting that God is faithful. It can feel easier to remain in a state of disappointment rather than hope again and have them dashed. *‘and this hope does not lead to disappointment for we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love’.* Rom 5:5

We are going to take time as I end to write down our disappointments and put them on the cross with Jesus, and there's an opportunity to take fresh hope, there are scriptures and a song written by Clive reminding us that God is not slow or late but He is faithful.

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CG Questions:

1. Patience involves waiting. Patience is: **the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious.** We all find ourselves at some point in the waiting room of life, maybe you're waiting on: a job opportunity, a partner, baby, new direction, healing, friends/family coming to know Him or a prodigal returning, you may be waiting for God to restore a relationship. Do people feel in a waiting time, share if happy?

2. We can feel a mix of feelings in the waiting, some conclusions we make are: I am forgotten, abandoned, I'm not good enough, I'm alone, I'm not worth caring for, it's impossible and hopeless nothing can change. How do we feel in the waiting? Do any of these beliefs find an echo inside some? If yes:

For those feeling forgotten or rejected God says:

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For those feeling abandoned or rejected God says:

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You may feel on your own, with no one to care for you, God says:

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You may feel it's impossible to see a change, God says to you:

‘Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.’

You may feel all your hopes are dashed for your situation: but God says to you:

‘For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and give you a hope and a future.’ Jer 29:11

3. Disappointment undoes patiently waiting and trusting that God is faithful. It can feel easier to remain in a state of disappointment rather than hope again and have them dashed. *‘and this hope does not lead to disappointment for we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love’* Rom 5:5. Let's give our disappointment to Jesus, may want to write them down. Pray for fresh hope for those feeling disappointed.

4. Listen to Waymaker song:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SE\\_M9noEhNE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SE_M9noEhNE)

5. Consider the lyrics of Clive's song below.

#### **Clive Webb (Song)**

When the hard wind blows from the east  
And the cold night pierces your soul  
He is faithful, He may take a while,  
But he won't be slow.  
He is faithful, He may take a while,  
But he won't be slow.

When the good things seem to have gone  
And the blessing seems so long ago  
He is coming, He may take a while,  
But he won't be slow.  
He is coming, He may take a while,  
But he won't be slow.

When the seeds of hope have been sown  
When the dawn light reaches your eyes  
He is coming, He has promised you  
And He never lies  
He is coming, He has promised you

And He never lies

When the spring is coming on you  
When the newborn future arrives  
He is with you, He has promised  
And He never lies  
He is with you, He has promised  
And He never lies

When the blessing falls all around  
With His Spirit shining across the land  
Freely you receive, and so freely give  
With an open hand  
Freely you receive, and so freely give  
With an open hand

When his glory falls on the earth  
When the time has come to celebrate  
You will be the bride, Christ will take his place  
And He won't be late  
You will be the bride, Christ will take his place  
And He won't be late