

# Women Building Godly Lives

*The wisest of women builds her own house,  
but folly with her own hands tears it down. Prov. 14:1*

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## Just Wait A Minute! By Wilburta Arrowood

We live in an age of instant gratification. We have frozen dinners and microwaves, fast food restaurants, and movies on demand. We want lunch, that new dress, and to move to a bigger house right now. We want to start our marriages with all the material things our parents took a lifetime to accumulate. We also want spiritual maturity instantly, if not before. Just wait a minute!

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NASB) says, “There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven—” That is God’s word, so I believe it, but it does not say all things will be instantaneous. Some things come from hard work and perseverance, like all those appliances we want when we start a new marriage.

Hebrews 13:5 (NASB) “Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, ‘I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU.’” Being content does not mean you should not work toward goals, but it does mean we should be happy with what we have as we work.

Some things come from diligent study and application. 2 Timothy 2:15 (NASB) says “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” This tells me there is something for me to do while I wait for that appointed time of salvation. I need to work at being what God expects me to be. In

order to do that I have to know what God truly wants. The only reliable source of that information is in God’s word.

I can read the scriptures, but the only way to learn the truths there and be able to draw on them in all circumstances is for them to be embedded in my heart. That does not happen instantaneously. It happens over time as we read and study. In other words, we must wait for that knowledge to become an integral part of our lives. We can and should put God’s instructions into practice as soon as we learn them, but we should not expect to learn it all in a few short sessions. In fact, it takes a lifetime of learning. We must study, work, practice and wait for God’s wisdom, and for that final reward.

We are not promised instant gratification, but we are promised it will be worth it. Lamentations 3:25-26 (NASB) “The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him. It is good that he waits silently for the salvation of the LORD.” 2 Peter 3:8 tells us, “But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.” Just wait a minute!



## Waiting is Hard and I'm Not Very Patient

By Alice Simmons

Have you ever waited in line for what you thought was a good reason, only to find out you wasted your time?

Some things are worth the wait—waiting for the perfect spouse to come along, for the birth of a newborn, or for good test results. These are exciting events to wait for. But what about the problems and challenges in everyday life to which we desperately need answers and help in making proper decisions? Most answers for wise decisions need time to work out.<sup>[1]</sup> Waiting takes so long and is so time consuming; we grow tired from waiting. In today's world we don't do much waiting because we can hear, see, and reach what we want on our iphones. We are spoiled with instant gratification, whether we're cooking a quick meal in a microwave or looking something up on the internet.

Our daily lives insist on being informed and knowing immediately. However, in God's Word, we learn that sometimes we must wait. When bad things happen to us, we may ask, "why me, Lord?" We may ask God to show us the way when we feel lost. Because there seems to be no answers, we lose patience with ourselves and others. But there is an answer. God knows our every struggle and hears our every cry and prayer. He allows us to make our choices in all things, yet He is ready to help when He knows the time is right. His Words give us hope and courage as we seek His wise counsel. "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31. The word 'wait' in that scripture means to stay, remain, have confidence in God.

What a blessing it is to know that we never have to 'wait' on God. He is always there. By trusting and believing in the power and love that He shows us, we learn to have confidence in Him. We know that He has promised that all will work out for us in the end. Sometimes what we wait for is not what we wanted, but at some later point we can look back and see that God really knew best, and the 'good' we questioned was really what we needed.

We, as Christians, must do our part to solve our issues, knowing God will intervene and help in our infirmities, heartaches, and other problems. God always sees the whole picture, while we look through a tunnel, wondering what lies ahead, and not being able to see as God sees. Our task is to pray and evaluate, do what we can, keep a good attitude, and keep our eyes open for the opportunities that show us our answers to the trouble we have.

Accepting outcomes may be difficult and disappointing at first, but a positive attitude will help us make the best of what is to be while we continue to pray for faith, strength, and guidance as we press toward contentment.



## Waiting To Go Home By Elizabeth Turner Beall

When life is hard and troubles bring us down, it's difficult to wait on God to answer our prayers. We sometimes feel God has forgotten us, but He hasn't. He loves us and cares for us, and when the time is right, providence and answers will come. God's time is not our time; we must trust without doubting.

Life would be easier if we had only one trial every year or so, but life isn't that way. Life is filled with times of challenges and waiting. In those times, do we let it bring us down and cause doubt to fill our minds, do we keep a positive attitude with unwavering faith, or float somewhere in between?

When troubles seem never-ending, and relief nowhere in sight, I tell God, "I want to go Home. I want to be with You and free of all this." Then I ask for strength and help to get through because I know there is still work left for me to do. It's during those times that I realize I am waiting to go Home, with a deep longing to be free of pain and life's cares, and with a strong hope and desire for Heaven.

The apostle Paul tells us “that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (Romans 8:18). So, the beauty and perfection of Heaven, along with being there with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit will be worth every second of trouble we go through on earth, all waiting to get there.

After Paul tells us how Heaven will be worth the struggles and waiting, then he tells us “that the creation (man) itself will be set free from the bondage of corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” (verse 21) We will have bodies in heaven that will not suffer, grow old, and die, and we will have freedom in God’s glory because we are his children.

In verse 19 Paul says the creation (man) “waits with eager longing.” In verse 23 he uses the phrase “we wait eagerly.” So, how do we wait eagerly when he says in verse 25 “we wait for it (heaven) with patience?” Paul first tells us no matter what happens to us on earth, heaven will be worth the wait, then he shows us our salvation through Christ and our faithfulness will be what gets us to heaven. He added to that the hope we have...something greater and better to look forward to.

But how do we wait eagerly *and* patiently? A preacher once said something that has become my life’s motto and helps me see how to do both: “Plan like you’ll live forever. Live like you’ll die tonight.” Plan what you can do for future and want to do for the kingdom of God now. But in carrying out those plans, live each day as if it will be your last. Take advantage of daily opportunities as best you can; each day talk with God (pray) and let God talk to you (bible study); take care of your families—physical and church, and “be kind to everyone” (2 Timothy 2:24). When you lay your head on your pillow at night and evaluate your day, you will be able to thank God for that day and say, “I’m ready to go, if it is Your will. If not, I’m one day closer home.”

If we stay close to God in faith and wait for the rewards promised (Hebrews 11:6), and remain steadfast (Colossians 1:22-23), we know

the Holy Spirit helps take our prayers we don’t know how to say to Christ, our mediator so God hears our pleas (Romans 8:26-27). There is nothing more we need with Almighty God as our Father, Christ Jesus as mediator and brother (Romans 8:29), and the Holy Spirit providing for us. What a comforting, yet empowering, thought to know we are loved and cared for so much. Knowing and believing these things should give us strength we don’t realize we have for each trial we meet and make waiting to go home easier every day.

May we encourage one another as we eagerly and patiently wait to go Home to Heaven.

Write the definition and what you think about each word:

Instant:

Wait:

Lifetime:

Content:

Goals:

Bible:

Gratification:

Doubt:

Freedom:

Heaven:

How do the following scriptures help you in waiting for answers to prayers, or getting through struggles?

Ecclesiastes 3:1:

Isaiah 40:31:

Lamentations 3:25-26:

Matthew 11:28-30:

Romans 8:18-19:

2 Timothy 2:15:

2 Peter 3:8:



Questions:

- 1) What do you find hard to wait for? Why?
- 2) Why might God have us wait sometimes in answers to our prayers?
- 3) How do the scriptures in Romans 8 help and comfort you with your struggles in life?
- 4) What is one area of your life where you could use more patience?
- 5) How can you encourage other Christian women to wait patiently on God?

Application Ideas:

- 1) Write out a verse regarding waiting on the Lord on a note card and hang it where you'll see it often.
- 2) Be specific in your prayers to God – tell Him what you're struggling to wait on and ask for His help.
- 3) Evaluate your goals in life. If they are long-term goals, how will you keep from getting discouraged? Write down your plan to keep on track and not quit.

Prayer suggestions:

- 1) Thank God for different things in your life that took some time to have or achieve.
- 2) Ask God's help for getting through your greatest challenge in life, whether it's something right now, or something that is ongoing.
- 3) Pray for others whom you know that are having problems right now. Pray for their strength and patience in their struggle.

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