

PARKSIDE CHAPEL
LIFE NEWS

THE WAITING GAME

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Fall is by far my favorite part of the year. I like the fresh start of a school year. There is nothing like a box of new crayons with endless possibilities and no broken tips! In other parts of the country, leaves change from green to a sea of vivid oranges, reds, and yellows that drift to the ground. I can shut off my air conditioning and slip into my favorite Big Sandy Camp hoodie (Ok, I have three of them). Sipping on my warm coffee without sweating is a privilege that the fall weather brings.

Yet here we are in one of the hottest heat waves of the year, with highs in 110's in September. It is cliché to talk about the weather but sometimes you must when something unusual happens. 111 degrees in September yesterday was unusual. The cell phones have proclaimed excessive heat warnings for days on end now. So here I am, waiting for my favorite season to begin. Waiting for my warm drink and hoodie place of happiness. Waiting for different colored leaves. Waiting for a change of season in life around me.

Waiting happens a lot in the Bible. We have the Israelites wandering and waiting in the desert for decades. Waiting for the promised land took a while; something God had promised wasn't immediately granted. Hannah cried out for a baby for many years before God gave her Samuel. Israel got exiled and waited yet again. It was decades later that they returned from exile to their promised land. And

then there was the waiting for hundreds of years for the long-promised Messiah. To be part of Israel and part of God's covenant people must have felt like all they ever did was wait.

Psalms 27 starts by ascribing worship to God, "The LORD is my light and salvation." It continues by talking about God's protection from the chaos going on around him. David then turns to seeking God in worship and receiving protection. He repeats this theme in different ways speaking of God's goodness despite the chaos and seeking after him. Then David ended with this, "Wait for the LORD, be strong and courageous. Wait for the LORD." There is a lot that could be unpacked there. It is a great verse to dwell on, but don't miss that waiting wasn't passive for David in this Psalm. It wasn't a let's just wait and see approach. Nor was it a victim mentality of, "I can't do anything." Waiting on LORD is about **trusting** him and **seeking** him. It is about faithfully walking and depending on God.

There are seasons when we must wait on the LORD. Hopefully, not hundreds of years like Israel, but if we are honest, often more time than we want to wait. Friends, if you aren't in this time of waiting on what God has promised or you're waiting on him to intervene, don't worry... you will be. Wait with the LORD in expectancy of his goodness and with worship of him. God's timing is always perfect. **"Wait for the LORD, be strong and courageous. Wait for the LORD." Psalm 24:14**