

Handling Adversity Like a King

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A fact of life...regardless of title, fame, socio-economic class, marital status,...regardless of anything...there will be hardships and adversity. There will also be joys and laughter.

The struggle for most of us...

In life, there are really 3 causes of adversity:

- 1) Self-inflicted
- 2) Inflicted by others
- 3) Simply circumstantial

And when we are facing adversity as God's Children through faith in Christ, we can know that God will do one of three things. He will either:

- 1) Change our circumstances
- 2) Change us
- 3) Give us strength to withstand the struggle

The lingering question we ask is "Why?"

The answer is silence.

So what are we to do?

Here it is...we wait on God!

"A minute to learn...a lifetime to master"

Over 28 times we are commanded to "wait on the Lord."

2 Key Hebrew Words:

- 1) **Qavah:** to look patiently, hope, expect, look eagerly
- 2) **Yachal:** to wait, hope expectantly

Listen to a few verses:

Psalm 37:7-9

7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! **8** Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. **9** For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

Psalm 52:8-9

8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever. **9** I will thank you forever, because you have done it. I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly.

Psalm 62:5-8

5 For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. **6** He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. **7** On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. **8** Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

Psalm 130:5-6

5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; **6** my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

Waiting is like a braided rope

1. Crying out to/ seeking the Lord (**Psalm 40:1** I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.)
2. Stay humble (**Psalm 25:4-5** ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.)
3. Remember God's promises
4. Celebrate and meditate on God's faithfulness
 - a. Our perspective shifts when our meditation on God's love, goodness, power, works and mercy, buoy us above our feelings of affliction and despair.
5. Obey the last thing you were told until God changes your circumstances
6. Praise and Worship His character and nature
7. Sing a new song when God has delivered you! (**Psalm 40:1-3** ¹ I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. ² He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see

and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.”

Other Observations and Truths:

- We must avoid the mistake of glancing only occasionally at God during the time we are wounded. We can't afford to go a single day without integrating His Word into our life or conversing with Him in prayer. It is equipping us for our next adversity.
- If God is our “Strong Tower” or “Refuge,” we must remember that we want to be “in Him” completely. A strong tower doesn't really benefit our lives when we are off gallivanting around the countryside when the enemy actually attacks. So seek the Lord daily! (See **Psalm 18:2; Psalm 61:1-3**)
- God is never too busy and our struggles are never too small for Him. There are no small prayers and no little needs. (See **Psalm 40:5; Psalm 8:4; Psalm 55:22**)

Benefits of waiting:

1. It teaches us patience and forges godly character
2. It purifies our motives.
3. It protects us from unseen dangers.
4. It makes us great witnesses of God's faithfulness.

We have 3 choices when it comes to adversity:

1. We can seek to manipulate our circumstances to get what we want.
2. Walk away from God in disappointment or anger.
3. We can wait and trust in God.

Psalm 37:7 “And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.”