

## **God's Waiting Room**

### **Acts 16:17-25**

I don't know about you, but I don't like hanging around in waiting rooms...especially doctor's offices.

Waiting rooms can be one of the most mindless, waste of times that you can have.

You sit there and wait, and wait, and wait until someone finally calls your name...

It doesn't really matter what kind of waiting room I'm talking about.

It could be at the BMV, though they've gotten much better at their service.

It could be at the doctor's office...that's never a good place to have to hang around. You don't know if the person setting next to you is sicker than you are.

Who knows what you might come home with...

About the only waiting room I enjoy is Dr. Feeman's my chiropractor. He has great Christian music playing, so you can be blessed just waiting in your office.

Some try to take the edge off of your wait by having old magazines that have been handled by who knows...and with what kind of germs.

It's just not fun to be in a waiting room...

But the waiting room is necessary...if you want to get to the next event.

Probably one of the hardest waiting rooms to experience is God's waiting room.

How many of you have been there? Some of you might be in there right now.

Let me give you a definition of God's waiting room.

It's the time you go from the call to the fulfillment...

It's the time you go from the promise being made to seeing the promise fulfilled.

It could be the time between you praying for your children and them coming to the Lord.

It's the time period where you seek God for something and the delivery of that which you sought.

God's waiting room...but how you handle yourself in God's waiting room could and more often than not determines how long you stay there.

So I want to share with you, how to go through God's waiting room, and still have the victory.

Turn with me to Acts 16:17-25

Here's a story that most of you should be familiar with, Paul and Silas...

*17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. 18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. 19 And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was*

*gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, 20 And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, 21 And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans. 22 And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. 23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: 24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. 25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. KJV*

Paul and Silas wasn't doing anything wrong, they just upset the community because they cast out a demon...they didn't deserve to be in prison.

They had their feet in shackles which were reserved for the most dangerous of criminals...but yet that is where God allowed them to be.

Through that waiting room experience, people's lives were forever changed...

**1. The first thing I want you to see, what seems to be like a pointless or even painful waiting room may be God's most productive workroom.**

You're never in God's waiting room for no reason...

God always has a purpose that is to be accomplished, but so many times we get antsy and fidgety and prolong the process of the waiting room.

Here's what we should do while in the waiting room...

**A. Resist the urge to complain and fill the situation with praise.**

We don't find Paul and Silas complaining about being in the prison...

I'm sure that if they had their choice that would not be the top place they would want to stay...but in the middle of the dark, musty, nasty prison they found it in themselves to sing praises!

God takes offense to our complaining about what He's doing.

In the book of Numbers we find that Moses had led Israel out of Egypt.

After they had crossed over the Red Sea there were in a desert place on their way to the promise land.

They were to originally only spend 2 weeks there but it ended up 40 years.

The reason they ended up wandering that long was they were constantly complaining about where they were and what they were going

God took great offense to that...listen to what God says in Num 14:11,12

*Num 14:11-12 And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them? 12 I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they. KJV*

Ultimately, God did not let those who complained into the promise land...only their children got to see it except for Joshua & Caleb.

Listen church, again, we've got to resist the urge to complain and fill the situation with praise!

When you're in God's waiting room, you need to take the focus off of your complaining and put it on the blessings of God.

I challenge you to do the following...

Every time you feel like complaining to God about something, think of three blessings of God that you've experienced.

If you will start to do that, instead of the atmosphere of defeat and murmuring you will experience the joy of the Lord.

*Phil 2:14-15 14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; KJV*

So don't let the pain of the situation win, let your pain trigger a praise.

**2. Next, preoccupy yourself with fulfilling God's purpose instead of escaping your problem.**

Instead of focusing on what you don't have, or what you're not doing and trying to figure out how to get out of the waiting room, focus on the fact that this is part of the process that God is using on bringing me into the promise!

One reason members and pastors run from church is they're trying to escape instead of fighting for the fulfillment of God's purpose for their life there.

Every time someone leaves when they should have stayed it hurts a little more God's plan for that church.

God has in the waiting room for a reason, but when we're constantly focused on how to get out of this situation, the thing that God desires to do through that situation can never be fully accomplished.



A. Sometimes God wants to teach you something in the waiting room.

B. Sometimes God puts you in the waiting room to allow certain people to come into your life.

I might be in the waiting room because God wants to use me to be in your life and I had to wait for you to get here.

C. Sometimes God is using that wait time to perfect something in us, or remove the rough places.

D. Sometimes God has us in the waiting room because He needs to reroute us because we were going in the wrong direction.

**3. Finally, don't wait just for what God has in the future for you...open your eyes and see what God wants to do today.**

I find things go by much faster if I'm working while in the waiting room.

Talk about working on my phone...answering emails, reading the bible and such.

Just because you have a purpose for the future doesn't mean you can't be productive today!