



The Bell Came First

**Wait on the Lord: be of good courage,
and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.
Psalm 27:13-14**

Seeing God in Everything

One of the special joys of my adolescent years was listening to my parents talk about important events that took place in their lives. From childhood to adulthood, from dating to getting married, my mom and dad shared these treasured occurrences—both the joys and challenges.

I can recall my mother talking about the day that she and my father first met. She laughed as she said, "*I could not stand your father when I first met him.*" But my father was determined, and his persistence paid off. My parents were married for 36 years, before my father went home to be with the Lord.

Of all the stories they shared, there is one that inspires me to this day. I was fascinated as my parents revealed that they were a part of the Great Migration. During the Great Migration, which occurred from 1916 to 1970, more than 6 million African Americans moved from the South to the North in search of better lives.

As newlyweds in 1948, my parents had to adjust to life in the big city. They also had to adjust to living with less, for my father was the only one working. Being many miles away from home, they could not go to "momma's house" for a home-cooked meal, when their cupboard was bare. Instead, it was solely up to them to make ends meet.

One day, while sitting in their one-bedroom apartment, my father surprised my mother by giving her a small gift box. When she opened the box she saw that it contained a doorbell. My mother was puzzled as to why my father would give her such an item. My father declared that they would not always live in a tiny apartment. He vowed that, one day, they would have a house to go with the doorbell.

Holding on to the idea that owning a home was in their future, my mother put the doorbell away for safe keeping. It took a while, but in 1975, 27 years later, my father kept the promise that he had made to his bride; my family and I moved into our house. Although the house was considered a "fixer-upper," nevertheless, it was ours. When we moved into our new home, one of the first things my father did was install the doorbell. To this day, the sound that resonate from this doorbell is a reminder to me that, sometimes, we just have to wait for some blessings.

I'm sure my mother had her moments of doubt, but she waited patiently. As Christians, we strive to trust and wait on the Lord, but waiting can be difficult—unbelief can creep in. We may be tempted to give up on a dream or desire. We may even try to move ahead of God, and attempt to force an outcome. But the Lord knows when the time is right; He knows when we are ready.

Although it may take days, months or years, to achieve our goals or receive our blessings, let us make good use of our waiting period by being of good courage and trusting in God.

Dear Father, we are grateful that You do not give us what we want, when we want it, but rather what we need, when we need it, for You know what is best for us.



August 2012

Praise

Prayer

Study
Scriptures

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

4

**Psalm
25:4-5**

Learn while
waiting

The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.

Psalm 145:15

**Psalm
37:34**

Obey while
waiting

5

Pray we will not only study God's word but obey His words

6

Pray we will stay on the right path

7

Give praises, God exalts us in due season

1

Pray we will allow God to teach us His ways

2

Pray we will allow God to teach us His truths

3

Pray we will allow God to direct our paths

Give praises, God's word teaches us how to wait

**Lam
3:24-26**

Hope & seek
while waiting

12

Pray we will put our hope in God and not man

13

Pray we will put our hope in God and not things

14

Give praises, because of God's love and mercies, we have hope

15

Give praises, God desires that we seek Him

16

Give praises, when we seek God, He hears and answers

17

Pray we will wait on God with humility

Pray we will accept God's will and timing

**1 Corin
2:9**

Love Him
while waiting

19

Pray we will trust God with our future

20

Praise God in advanced for what He has prepared for us

21

Pray we will believe before we receive

22

Pray we will love God for who He is

23

Pray we will love God for His awesome power

24

Give praises, God's strength helps us to press on

Give praises, God's power helps us to believe the impossible

**Hebrews
6:11-12**

Be diligent
while waiting

26

Pray we will be diligent in doing God's work as we wait for what lies ahead

27

Thank God for those who inspired us with their faith, and endurance

28

Pray we will have the faith of Noah by trusting and doing what God instructs to do

29

Pray we will have the faith of Abraham knowing that God keeps His promises

30

Pray we will have the faith of Joseph, knowing that God will see us through our moutains and our valleys

31

Give praises, becuase of God, we can have hope until the end