

6 True Joy and Joyful Waiting  
Talk 6

**Topics under Joyful Waiting for Consideration:**

1. The problem of demanding immediate pleasure
2. The wisdom of waiting for the right thing in the right way
3. How true joy engages with waiting – joyful waiting, waiting in joy

**Definition of Joyful Waiting:**

“Joyful waiting is waiting on the Lord to fulfill His promises and doing so with the utmost confidence that God is faithful and true in all aspects of fulfilling His promises including what He gives, when He gives it, and how He gives. Joyful waiting is convinced that the day will most assuredly come when faithful waiting on the Lord with joyful faith will be shown to be the wisest thing we could do; it will pay off.”

**Scripture on Joyful Waiting: Listen for JOY in these verses on waiting on the Lord**

Psalm 27:14 “Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord.”

Psalm 130:5 “I wait for the Lord; my soul does wait; and in His Word I do hope”

Psalm 37:7 “Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him”

Lamentations 3:25 “The Lord is good to those who wait on Him”

Micah 7:7 “But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation.”

Psalm 62:5 “My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him”

Isaiah 40:31 “Those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength”

Isaiah 8:17 “I will wait for the Lord who is hiding His face from the house of Jacob; I will even look eagerly for Him”

**Different Aspects of Joyful Waiting**

1. Joyful waiting believes that God is in charge of the situation as much during times of waiting as He is in times of fulfilled promises, that the waiting is part of God’s will as much as the promises fulfilled.
2. Joyful waiting knows that times of waiting are important seasons in the Christian life, and God wills that we grow and mature in such times.
3. Joyful waiting knows that the day will come when we will be glad, we rightly responded in waiting, and if we do not wait on the Lord, then we will regret that we did not do so.
4. Joyful waiting pulls together different important ingredients of the Christian life. The various things that joyful waiting does for us include the following:

- a. Joyful waiting helps us differentiate between the highest value of God Himself, and helps us to value Him more than His blessings.
- b. Joyful waiting helps us to put earthly treasure and relationships in perspective.
- c. Joyful waiting crushes selfishness.
- d. Joyful waiting incorporates holy surrender to God.
- e. Joyful waiting helps us to earnestly long for higher realities and the kingdom of God.
- f. Joyful waiting focuses our eyes on Jesus' grace right now and on heaven.

The Heidelberg Catechism question 22: "What must a Christian believe?" Answer, "All things promised in the gospel"

### **Enemies of Joyful Waiting; How does Sinful Flesh Obstruct Joyful Waiting?**

1. I demand my own way – to be in charge.
2. I demand immediate gratification.
3. I demand that everything be focused on me.
4. I am ungrateful for what God has already done.
5. I am doubtful of what God has promised to do.
  - a. Selfishness, lack of control, ungratefulness, and doubt all lead to...
    - i. Irritation
    - ii. Upset
    - iii. Worry
    - iv. Anger
    - v. Hatred
    - vi. Bitterness
  - b. But Joyful Waiting leads to...
    - i. Praise to God, worship of God
    - ii. Gratitude and thankfulness
    - iii. Positive disposition
    - iv. Easy to get along with
    - v. Rests in the Lord, peace and calm

### **Some Final Considerations**

1. Waiting on the Lord reminds us that joy is found only in possessing that which God has promised, but through assurance of faith joy springs from the certain hope that we have in Christ, which contains all that God has promised in the gospel.
2. Waiting has a way of purging out all the impurities of character and faith that keep both from being what they ought to be. This is the meaning of 1 Peter 1:6-9.
3. Waiting has a way of recalibrating life's priorities and expectations to become oriented to a biblical worldview.