

## In the Waiting

Series: Summer Psalms

Pastor Tim Buechsel | 15 August 2021

- What are small everyday moments where you find waiting annoying?
- What is one of those bigger things in life that you are waiting on right now?

### Part One | Waiting

Ps. Tim said, *“So there are things that we are hoping for and waiting on for ourselves, for our loved ones, and for our city. But, here is the thing, when waiting continues and our circumstances don’t change, we get anxious and frustrated, and we often lose hope and perspective.”*

- What do you do when you find yourself in a difficult season of waiting?
- How do you seek God when you feel anxious or frustrated in waiting?

Read Psalm 37:1-9, *“This psalm is written to a community who is struggling with their life circumstances and waiting on God to bring change. It’s addressed to people who are on the verge of losing their faith and hope in God. **The psalm doesn’t address the “why of suffering and difficulty” but instead provides guidance and encouragement on how to live when you find yourself hard-pressed walking through a difficult season of waiting.**”*

- What stands out to you in Psalm 37:1-9?

### Part Two | Trust in the Lord

*“First in verse 3 we are encouraged to ‘**Trust in the Lord.**’ ‘Trust’ here means to submit the situation to God to hand it over – to entrust yourself into God’s hand. That’s an active step that we can take, but that we often don’t take when we find ourselves at the crossroads of being frustrated, tired of waiting, and tempted. So, “Why do we find it hard to trust the Lord?” One reason is we like to stay in control of a situation and don’t want to rely on anyone else - including God. Another reason why we struggle to trust God is that we are fearful that we will be disappointed.”*

- What makes it hard for you to trust in the Lord?
- What helps you to place your trust in the Lord?

*“But despite our tendency to be self-reliant and our struggle to trust God out of fear of being disappointed, the Psalm encourages us to “trust in the Lord.” One of the ways to trust God is to **surrender yourself to God’s care and entrust whatever is going on to God through prayer** through verbalizing all those things weighing on your heart to our Heavenly Father.”*

- What does surrendering ourselves to God and trusting him look like practically for you?

### Part Three | Doing Good

*“The second thing that we are told to do in verse 3 is to ‘do good.’ God is not asking us to ignore the challenges that we are facing or to pretend like we are feeling great. But we are also encouraged to focus on doing good, even though we are walking through a difficult season, there is still good that we can do that honors God. The psalmist also knows that when we are walking through difficult seasons in life, there is always the temptation to do wrong. We have a choice in these intense periods of waiting in these crisis of faith moments. **We can do good and honor God, or we can become so consumed by our circumstances and perhaps the injustice of what has happened that we do what is wrong. [...] It’s amazing how when we do good, our focus starts shifting from what is causing us to be anxious and frustrated to the things that God wants to do through us.**”*

- What good can you do in this season to bring God honor?

### Part Four | Focusing on God’s Goodness

*“Another thing we can do during seasons of waiting is to focus on God’s goodness in our lives and delight in God. The overall thrust of Verses 3 and 4 is to shift our focus on God. So, instead of being anxious and getting all worked up about those who do wrong and are prospering, we are encouraged to fix our eyes on God and do the good work that God gives us. This is not talking about a “fake delighting” but genuinely delighting in God. This is the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives.”*

- What is the difference between fake delighting and genuinely delighting?
- How do you practise genuine delighting in God?

*“One way that we can move towards “taking delight in the Lord,” is through **seeing God’s present goodness in my life and giving thanks**. This does not mean that my difficult season disappeared, but I was able to see God’s goodness and faithfulness in the midst of my struggle and pain. Seeing God’s goodness is a way that we can start delighting in God - who He is, His love for us, His faithfulness, His goodness, His comfort - and we can start doing that even in difficult circumstances.”*

- Do you find seeing God’s goodness helpful in your difficult seasons?

*“When we invite Jesus into our lives, we receive the help and hope, grace and strength we need. Jesus has the power to change our circumstances. But it all starts with daring to take that step of trusting Jesus.”*

### Prayer:

Lord, we thank you that you have been good in every season of our lives, help us to be patient and trust in you while we are waiting, remind us to do good and delight in you even in difficult seasons, as you are our loving God.