

Weekly Devotional
April 29, 2020

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope. (Psalm 130:5 ESV)

Waiting. That's precisely what we've all been doing during this pandemic. Waiting for our schools to reopen. Waiting for local businesses to reopen. Waiting for public sites to reopen. In a nutshell, we're waiting for life to get back to normal. As we wait for the effects of COVID-19 to subside (and as we wait for effective treatment), what we're really doing is *waiting for the Lord*. How's that going for you? Chances are, if you're like most people, you're probably feeling some frustration right about now.

Think about this for a moment: The ancient Israelites waited 430 years for the Lord to deliver them from their bondage in Egypt (Genesis 15:13-14; Exodus 12:40-41). Here's something else to think about: After they left Egypt, they had to do some more waiting! They didn't journey straight to their promised land; instead, they camped at the base of Mount Sinai, waiting for Moses to receive instruction from God. After 40 days of continual waiting, they became frustrated and—in their frustration—lost sight of God and his glorious work in delivering them. Regrettably, they turned their hearts away from the Lord and sinfully pursued their own wants. You can read the entire story in Exodus 32.

Let's be honest. It can be frustrating to wait. Waiting gives us plenty of time to focus on our own circumstances and wants. We want the pandemic to end. We want social distancing to end. We want life to return to normal. And when those things don't happen as quickly as we want them to, our self-focus leads us to frustration, which in turn can lead us to sin.

Are you feeling frustrated lately? Disappointed? Impatient? Do what the psalmist does in today's verse: Turn your heart to the Word of God! Specifically, remind your heart of the good news of Christ. Don't lose sight of God and his glorious work in delivering your soul from bondage to sin and death! And remember: As with the ancient Israelites, God is using your current waiting to prepare you for your arrival to your heavenly homeland. Spend some time this week looking to the evidence of God's faithfulness. Look back to what he's already done for you in Christ and look ahead to where he's taking you as revealed through his Word. This will help you overcome frustration and impatience as you faithfully continue to wait for the Lord.

Questions:

- What have been some of your frustrations as you wait for the COVID-19 crisis to end? Do those frustrations reveal what your heart wants? (Hint: The answer is yes). What are some of those revealed wants?
- How does remembering the good news of Christ help you to patiently wait for the Lord when you aren't getting what you want?
- Spend some time in prayer thanking God for his faithfulness to you.