



The Waiting Room

7-short Devotionals for Weary Hearts

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~Before You Begin~

Dear friend,

The moment you said yes to follow Christ, you began waiting. Whether you're waiting for the fulfillment of a promise, for an answer to prayer or for His return...this journey can test your patience and endurance.

But waiting with a friend can help give you a different perspective. On my most difficult days--when my heart was too weary to hope, I have been blessed to have a friend sit beside me and gently, firmly remind me of Truth. The Truth has made all the difference.

~~Everyone~~ the Truth is, He will come, you know. He keeps His promises.

May the words written in these short devotionals do more than help you well pass the time. May they encourage you to wait .

Alongside,

lonettebaity.com

~Day 1~

Waiting Well

Psalm 37:3

“Mommy, is it time yet?”

“No, not yet.”

Ten minutes later...

“Mommy, now?”

“No, not yet.”

“But you said...”

“Yes I did, sweetheart. I will come get you when it's time. It isn't time yet.”

Waiting is hard. Waiting *well* is even harder. It doesn't matter how old you are.

The aches of our hearts often seem to shout louder than the truth of our Father's character. Our Father is trustworthy.

If we believe He is trustworthy, we must live for and wait for Him *as if* He is worthy of our trust.

The truth is that God is at work.

He is teaching. Pruning. Revealing. Healing.

The things He reveals to us and heals in our hearts during the season of waiting will prove instrumental in the next leg of this journey. *That*, Friend, is something worth waiting for!

Reflection: *What are you waiting for, friend? Be specific, write it down.* Psalm 37:3 says, “Dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness” (AMP). Now *write down and reflect upon His faithfulness. How has God come through for you in other seasons of your life?*

~Day 2~

Waiting For Beauty

Philippians 1:6

A friend inspired me to refinish the hardwood floors in my living room after my son used the beige carpet as a large art canvas. So, out with the old and in with the older...

We moved the furniture, pulled up the carpet, revealing the original hardwood floors circa 1937. They were damaged. And they were beautiful.

For hours we pulled staples, hammered down nails, prepared the wood and then sanded. Some spots transformed easily. There were other places where the wood was old and cracked and no amount of nailing would fix the jagged pieces.

It was hard work. We were tired. Our muscles were sore. Our hands bled from splinters. We were covered in dust and dirt, but the finished floors were worth it. We washed them and added a coat of sealant.

The sealant was meant to seal our hard work and add a light gloss, highlighting the original beauty of the wood. Instead, the next morning, I was greeted by a huge water spot. The sealant had caused old damage to rise to the surface. It was too deep for a simple sanding. I needed to stain it with a darker color to cover the imperfection. I had expected the beauty of a finished work, instead I needed to start all over again...

In life, sometimes the damage and the pain runs deeper than a quick fix. Our imperfections are magnified when our hearts are focused on what "should be."

The Carpenter has a different perspective. He is captivated by the beauty he sees every time He looks at you. And He is at work. He will finish the work He began. Trust His hands. He is gentle for He has known the piercing pain of the tree. He is not afraid, not ashamed of your imperfections.

He will show you the transforming power of a blood stained life. You see, you don't have to wait until the end to see His splendor and majesty. A beautiful transformation is taking place today...moment by moment. And when people see you, they see the work of His hands.

Reflection: *Take a moment to ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He sees in you--today. How are you growing in faith, in wisdom, in love? Write down what he says.*

~Day 3~

Waiting Well When You Feel Unseen

Genesis 16:13

There are days when waiting can be exhausting. It's as if you're stuck somewhere between almost there but not yet...

It's dark and you're on a two-lane road in cow country. You've been driving for more hours than you care to count and there are no rest stops in sight. You can't focus on the road ahead because it's raining and the GPS on your phone has stopped working. You've run out of snacks, you've had too much water and did I mention there are no rest stops nearby?

Have you ever been there? Emotionally? Spiritually? I have.

In those moments it is difficult to remain faithful when I can't see through the torrential downpour on my windshield. And I feel like that deluge might be a reflection of what's happening in my heart.

And then I hear the gentle whisper of Jesus. "I see you. I know you. I am here."

The rain lightens a bit. And then I see the rest stop or a friend calls or I hear a favorite song on the radio or my children say something that makes me giggle--all gentle kisses from the One who knows me.

He knows you too, Beloved.

...how you belt out tunes in the car on a summer day.

... how you dance wildly in your PJs when you think nobody's watching.

...how you love the outdoors as long as the bugs don't bug you.

Roll down the window and breathe. Let your heart be refreshed. You can go a bit longer. The Maker of the Heavens sees you and knows your name!

Reflection: Today, ask the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of your heart to see the kisses (unexpected blessings) from heaven. Don't forget to write them down at the end of the day!

~Day 4~

Waiting for Rescue

Hebrews 4:12

Olivia is a sweet, flower- picking, kiss-giving, cuddle-powered girl. She's sweet and gentle just like the meaning of her name.

Her brother is a sword-wielding warrior who rescues his sister from imaginary dragons.

One day, he decided it would be fun to pretend to *be* the dragon. Livi shrieked and ran in fear. Hiding behind me in the kitchen, she said, "Mama, there's a dragon in the living room!"

"Sweet girl," I said, "On the Baity team, we don't run away from dragons and wait for rescue. We run toward the dragon! Where's your sword?"

With giggles and courage-filled shrieks, we grabbed our swords and ran toward the dragon.

Friend, Does Fear threaten to steal any hope of victory? Does it rear it's ugly head anytime you get close to what has been promised?

Can you hear Him? Can you hear the gentle voice of your Father? "*Sweet girl, where's your sword?*"

Don't wait for rescue! Your Father has given you His sword! Don't be afraid to use it! Use your sword to sever the unholy ties with Fear.

Today, turn the fight around and instead of running away from the Dragon, run toward him. He has something that belongs to you!

Swords up, eyes up! The Lord is your strength!

Reflection: *What's your dragon? Use the sword of the spirit to fight by meditating on one Scripture verse to remind you of God's promise for victory in this season of your life. Here are a few ideas: Psalm 28:7, Psalm 25:2-3a, Psalm 144:1*

Day 5~

Waiting Well When Hope Disappoints

John 11:32-40

There are times in life when hope is in question. It has been misplaced. Abandoned. Down right Missing In Action.

In those times, we have a choice to make...

We will either run to Him or we will run away from Him.

One of my favorite stories in Scripture is of Miriam (Mary) and Martha (John 11). Lazarus, their brother was deathly ill, they sent word to Jesus, fully expecting Him to heal His dearest friend. They placed their hope in His arrival.

He did not come. He didn't visit. He didn't send words that healed. He didn't even send a card. He remained silent on the matter. Jesus visited Miriam and Martha four days after the funeral.

Can you imagine their disappointment with Him? Their anger?

Yep. Me too!

The first thing Martha and Miriam (Mary) did when Jesus arrived (*after the funeral*), was to **run to him** and share the raw emotions of their hearts. And Jesus listened and wept with them.

³³When Jesus looked at Miriam and saw her weeping at his feet, and all her friends who were with her grieving, he shuddered with emotion and was deeply moved with tenderness and compassion. ³ He said to them, "Where did you bury him?" "Lord, come with us and we'll show you," they replied. ³ Then tears streamed down Jesus' face (John 11: 32-35 The Passion Translation).

He not only understands your sorrow, His heart is deeply moved. There is a fellowship with Him in suffering that cannot be experienced any other way. **This journey, if you choose it, will lead straight to His heart.**

This is it-- the only way to KNOW He is the resurrection and not just "believe" He is!

Like Miriam and Martha, He asks you to take Him to the place of your disappointment---the place you've buried hope. He will show you His glory and goodness.

Reflection: *Take a moment today to invite Him into that part of your heart where you feel disappointment or loss of hope.*

~Day 6~

Joy is Waiting

Galatians 5:22-23

One of my favorite memories of my visit to South Africa was planting a garden. (I am no master gardener. In fact, I have a brown thumb, both literally and figuratively.)

My back and shoulders ached as I raked the same small patch of earth over and over making little progress. The ground was too hard. There were shards of glass, pieces of metal, bits of garbage.

How could *this used-to-be dump* ever become a productive garden? I remember praying in that very moment, 'Holy Spirit don't let my heart be this unyielding. Don't let it be this difficult to produce fruit in my life.'

As I quietly prayed, one of the team members came up to me with encouragement for the work I had done and reminded me that I didn't have to do it alone.

Today, I do the same for you.

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, friend. It isn't our job to produce it at all! Our part is to yield to His work.

He prepares the ground.
He plants the seed.
He produces His own fruit.

Joy is His to give. And He gives it freely. Take. Eat. Joy is waiting *for you!*

The Joy of the Lord is your strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

Reflection: Take a moment. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and help you to discover unseen Joy for the Joy of the Lord is *your* strength.

~Day 7~

Waiting in Prayer

1 John 4:9, 1 Corinthians 13 (The Msg)

This summer, I had the pleasure of meeting an amazing woman. At 91 years, she had a sharp mind and a flair for style. Passionate about life, love, and faith, she shared her fascinating and painful story. She spoke of the power of forgiveness and the impact of being steadfast in prayer.

The truth is, waiting for an answer isn't easy. Sometimes it's lonely and the weight we bear is invisible. The battle rages in the night when everyone else is fast asleep. Uncertainty creeps in and questions swirl in our hearts and minds.

But this woman who had more than nine decades of experience, shared a key--Love.

Love dispels and casts out fear! It encourages and fights. It strengthens and moves. It comforts and is not afraid of suffering. It doesn't give up, it perseveres. It believes and bears sturdy under a heavy load. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs. It is confident and courageous. Love is constant in prayer even when there are no words.

God is Love.

Say yes to Love today. Let Love pray. Let Him sustain you. Let Him comfort you and give you Hope. Let Love call the shots and let Love teach you how to fight and win!

Let Love fill you with hope as you wait!

Reflection: *Take a moment today to let your heart be filled with the presence of Love Himself. Meditate on 1 John 4:9 and 1 Corinthians 13. What might it look like for you to let Love fill you with hope? How can you more fully rely on Him while you wait?*

~A Final Word~

Friend,

Thank you for letting me come alongside you these past few days. I pray the words you read have refreshed your heart and given you Heaven's perspective.

I'd love to hear how the Lord is encouraging you to wait well!

Shoot me an email at lonettebaity@gmail.com or visit the blog *Becoming Brave* at LonetteBaity.com

Wait Well For Him,