
Witness Unhindered:
“Waiting for Power”
Acts 1: 12-26

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“Waiting and fidelity are closely connected, and many of us struggle with both. Lured by the promise of freedom and infinite choice, we are fearful of foreclosing our options and limiting our opportunities. Why make commitments to something in the future, when better opportunities might surface in the meantime? Why live in a way that anticipates a future when the present includes so many other possibilities? What promise could possibly be so life-giving that we would shape our lives around it?” – Christine Pohl

“Wait, pray, and believe, and all shall be well. He will not suffer them who fear Him and depend upon Him to want anything that is truly good for them.” – John Newton

“Waiting on God isn’t about the suspension of meaning and purpose. It’s part of the meaning and purpose that God has brought into your life. Waiting on God isn’t to be viewed as an obstruction in the way of the plan. Waiting is an essential part of the plan. For the child of God, waiting isn’t simply about what the child will receive at the end of his wait. No, waiting is much more purposeful, efficient, and practical. Waiting is fundamentally about what we will become as we wait . . . God is using the wait to do in and through you exactly what he has promised. Through the wait he is changing you. By means of the wait, he is causing you to see and experience new things about him and his kingdom. And all of this sharpens you, enabling you to be a more useful tool in his redemptive hands . . . Waiting on God is restorative. It is one of the tools God uses to remake us into what we were designed to be in the beginning . . . Picture in your mind the nimble and skilled fingers of a potter who is putting pressure on the clay right where it’s needed so that it will take on the beauty that is its potential. And with this picture in mind, give thanks for the very moment that once would have driven you crazy. Waiting is a “productive delay”.” – Paul Tripp

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- What from the Scripture passage or the sermon made an impression upon you? Are there lingering questions to be answered or rabbit trails to be followed for you?
- What season of waiting are you currently going through (or have recently realized)?
 - How is it?
 - What is it revealing for you?
 - How is it challenging you?
 - Does it feel like a “suspension of meaning and purpose” or a “productive delay”?
- The enforced season of waiting provided a space for the disciples to pray, to process, and to prepare.
 - What are you concerned about and praying about that we can enter into with you?
 - What significant circumstances have you experienced that you are trying to process through the lens and the grand narrative of Scripture? What passages or themes are emerging?
 - What do you think this season of waiting is preparing you for and pushing you towards?
- What images or words from Paul Tripp’s reflections resonate with you? What is redemptive and helpful and hopeful for this season of your life?