

Psalm 62 Waiting on God

One of the things we all have in common is waiting. We wait at stoplights and traffic jams. We wait to pick our kids up at school. We wait at the doctor's office. We wait in line at the grocery store. When we are young, we wait for our next birthday. It is obvious Abby is aggressively waiting for Christmas as she knows how many months, days, and if pushed to it, hours. I could go on and on. But life is full of waiting. Did you know that the Bible commands us to a particular kind of waiting, actually the most important waiting we will ever do? Ps. 27:14: **“Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!”** Ps. 37:7: **“Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him . . .”** Today, our text, Psalm 62, is about waiting on God. And since this is the most important waiting we will ever do, we need these words. I hope, by the end of our time this morning, we will have a better understanding of what this means for our lives. I have 5 truths.

1. The Ground of Our Waiting: God Alone. In other words, He is the basis of our waiting. He is the focus of our waiting. And ultimately, He is the goal of our waiting. He is the bulls-eye of our waiting. Over and over we see this truth. Look at v. 1: **“For God alone my soul waits . . .”** V. 2: **“He alone is my rock and salvation . . .”** V. 5: **“For God alone, O my soul, wait . . .”** V. 6: **“He only is my rock and my salvation . . .”** This word “alone” can be translated as “truly,” “merely,” “surely,” or “only.” But the meaning is the same. There is no, no one, in the universe in whom we wait, but God alone. The context of this Psalm is most likely the rebellion King David's son, Absalom. Even as David is forced to flee the city of Jerusalem, we see that He WAITS for the sovereign hand of God, even if he does not come back, even if he does not again ascend the throne, even if he is killed, he waits; he trusts the Lord's hand; he desires the will of God. In this Psalm he is comparing the works of evil men, their motives, their works, and the things they trust in compared to those who trust ONLY in the Sovereign Lord. Look at vv. 3-4: **“How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse.”** And vv. 9-10: **“Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them.”**

And David's situation is also our situation. "***Life is short and full of troubles.***" This is ALWAYS the case for God's children throughout the Bible! Beginning with Adam and Eve after the Fall as they looked for God to send a deliverer from their sons. In the midst of ungodliness and evil in the world, Noah's faith was in God alone. In all the sins, turmoil, calamities, circumstances of life, the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob found their hope in the worship and trust of God alone. All the other waitings in this life are pictures of this one truth. There is a reason we wait. And it is the living God. He is the ground of our waiting! Is. 64:4: "**From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.**"

This means our worship is to God alone. Our allegiance is to God alone. Our boasting is in God alone. Our decisions in this life must be made for the glory of God alone. This also means we are unique in our worship of God alone. Persecution will come! For the spirit of this world is not God alone, but instead the opposite. It is full of idolatry. Know this: when you tell people that there is only ONE way to heaven, there is only ONE name under heaven whereby salvation comes, the name of Jesus, you will be considered narrow minded, weird, intolerant, and a whole host of other names. But in the end, EVERYONE will know this truth! "**For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen**" (Rom. 11:36).

2. The Expectation of Our Waiting: Salvation. This answers the question: "What are we waiting for?" Look at v. 1 again: "**For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.**" The translation here is "help" or "salvation." Now, considering our first truth, at the most basic level, we wait for God himself. For He is our salvation. But, salvation means so much more. The immediate context is physical help. It is pretty much agreed (though not necessary to prove this truth), that David wrote this Psalm as he reflected upon the dangers of his life at arguably, one of David's most difficult times. One of his own sons was leading a rebellion. Many in the kingdom were following Absalom. He fled the holy city Jerusalem. His family was divided. His friends were divided. And in a general way, evil men were always against him (vv. 3-4). From all these things, the immediate context is physical help, or salvation.

In v. 2, David says God is his "**rock, his salvation, his fortress . . .**" I watched part of the Lord of the Rings this week as the people fled into the fortress at Helm's Deep. The city of Jerusalem was safe place because of the great wall. Kids, have you ever run from your brother or sister as you play and run into your room and close and lock the door, thinking, "*I'm safe. You can't get in.*" Well, God is our help. He is our salvation. Ps. 46:1 says, "**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**" Now,

let's think about this truth a bit further. We cannot stop merely with the application that God will help us physically. For this is exactly how the world sees God. They pray for help from disasters. They pray for help from wars. They pray help to send rain, etc.

However, our greatest need is not found merely in the physical and mental dangers of this world. Our greatest need is this: We are sinners. We have fallen short of the glory of God. And those who fall short of God's glory (all of Adam's children), remain in the most dangerous place in the universe. We find ourselves on the other side of Adam's sin. We are by nature and by choice sinners. And the penalty of our sin is death, and separation from God in a place called hell, where we read in Is. 66:24 is a place where the **“worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.”** Rom. 1:18 says, **“The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men . . .”**

In Rev. 8:1, in the midst of judgment, we read these words: **“When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.”** I can only imagine such silence (30 minutes). And I am not sure why, but maybe they could not speak as they thought about the judgment of a holy God upon sin. In the same kind of way, we should be silent and contemplate the grave danger of sinners who try to stand before a holy God. We are like Adam and Eve, trying to cover ourselves with leaves as if to stand safe before the one whom they have offended. Brothers and sisters, your sins put you in the most dangerous place in the universe. And there is nothing you can do to take away this wrath or improve your position. For the soul who sins will die. From murder to adultery to theft to sexual immorality, to the simple thought of malice toward another person: ALL of these prove we fall short. And from these things we need to be saved. But more importantly, we need to be saved from the wrath of God Himself! And until we realize how far our sin/s propel us away from God and his glory, we will not be saved! And the ONE from whom we try to run is the very ONE to whom we must run! For God alone is our salvation! And the answer to our greatest need lies in the gospel of Christ! As the angel told Joseph, concerning the baby in Mary's womb: **“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins”** (Matt. 1:21). Today, as those who look upon Jesus by faith we echo the words of Is. 25:9: **“It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”**

(app. Consider Heb. 10 with “expectation of judgment.”)

3. The Seat of Our Waiting: The Heart. The Puritans often said that the “HEART” is the seat of all affections. For out of the abundance of the heart comes good or bad. And where your treasure is, there your heart will also be. At the end of the day, we really do what we want to do. And David really wanted to wait on God. In this text he attributes waiting to his soul. V. 1: **“For God alone my soul waits . . .”** True waiting comes from the depths of who we are! This is the heart, which is a synonym for the soul. Though he fell and sinned greatly, throughout his life, the soul of David waited. Look at 63:1: **“O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.”** Look also at v. 8: **“My soul clings to you . . .”** In another place he says, **“As the deer pants for water, so my soul longs for you”** (Ps. 42:1). As the spots of a leopard show what it is, so does the waiting for the Christian. Out of the abundance of the heart we WAIT.

So what does this look like? Consider Job. Through all his afflictions he still says, **“Though he slay me, I will hope in him . . .”** (Job 13:15). **The Psalmist says in 84:10: “For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.”** When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were about to be burned in the fiery furnace, they say to King Nebuchadnezzar, *“Our God is able to deliver us.”* However, *“if he so chooses not to deliver from this fire,”* out of the abundance of their hearts they say, *“nevertheless, we will not bow down to your gods or worship the golden image.”*

This is why I continually preach to the heart as we WAIT in this world. If you want to change the worshiper, change his/her heart. If you want to be successful in obedience the heart must be changed. If you want a spouse that loves God, the heart must be changed. If you desire a more godly neighborhood, hearts must be changed. If you want to change a nation, hearts must be changed. And we know that ONLY God can change the heart! Therefore, pray! Speak the gospel! Live differently! And if you find yourself with little to no desire to follow Christ in this world, pray God to change your heart.

4. The Posture of Our Waiting: Trust. Recently, I went with Emily to a doctor in Australia who always had back problems. Well, he made a change and, among other habits, he started to stand up straight, and between patients, he began to pull his shoulders back and stretch (every day). In essence he made a change to his posture. When I think of posture, I think of the way we carry ourselves, the way we sit, the way we walk. If we want healthy backs, we should have good posture. In the same kind of way, as we wait in this world, our posture of waiting is trust. Now, this is faith. And we know that without faith it is impossible to please God. And as we wait in this world, we wait in faith. We believe God is who He says. We believe lots of things about Him. We believe He sent His Son as the savior of the world. We believe he died on the cross. We believe he rose again. We believe he ascended back to heaven from where he came. We believe he is coming back for us and will make all things right. This is faith. Our posture is one of faith.

However, I think this text clarifies the KIND of waiting that characterizes the faith of God's people. I think we can use the word "trust." Those who wait on God know He is trustworthy. In the midst of all the chaos and evil in this world, those who wait on the Lord, KNOW He is good; they KNOW He will not lead them astray. They KNOW He is faithful. And through everything they trust. Look at v. 1 again: "**For God alone, my soul waits in silence . . .**" I get this from the words "in silence." I think he is saying, "*I bow in silence to every word and act of the Almighty.*" One theologian says, "*He has a right to lay on me what he pleases; what he lays on me is much less than I deserve, therefore, am I dumb before him*" (Clarke). To put it another way, he is saying, "*his soul was quiet, submissive, and subject to the will of God; AND, all his rebellious affections are tamed and subdued.*" This is none other than trusting the sovereign providence of God in ALL THINGS!

A good example is the trust of a small child to his father or mother. Parents, we don't disclose much at all by explanation to our children, but they trust our wisdom. I think of the movie years ago where a Father and a son were living in a concentration camp and the father, as he tried to protect his son, made everything into a game, giving the most wise explanations in his care for his son (and the son trusted his father). In the same kind of way, God does not tell us all his ways. But, He tells us what we need and he expects us to trust him.

So how do we wait in this world? Well, this doesn't mean we simply shut our mouths and hearts to God as we cry out in distress? For we see this happen many times in the Psalms. But, as we consider the faithfulness of God, we really know that **“God works all things to the good of those who love him”** (Rom. 8:28). There is a trust in the sovereignty of God in all things. He is the potter. We are the clay. He is our creator. We are his creation. In this Psalm David commands us to: **“trust in him at all times”** (v. 8) and **“pour out your heart before him.”**

Let me ask, *“As you wait for the Lord, for his help in life's situations, and ultimately for the 2nd coming of Christ, do you ever become weary in your waiting?”* I think we all do. Take a look at the words of David in Ps. 69:1-3: **“Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me. I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.”** We do cry out! We cannot help it. But, we still wait with a posture that God is sovereign over all things and He has my best interest at heart. So what do we do? Does God help us? Of course, He does, which moves us to our final truth on waiting.

5. The Support of Our Waiting: The Grace of God. God will not leave us or forsake us. In this life of waiting, he give us grace. This is a big term. From one perspective, everything we get from God is grace. But, in this context, God sustains us in this life with gracious gifts. Think of the foundations of a building. So much time and effort is put in the those things that support the weight of such a building. In the same kind of way, God give us all the support we need. In this Psalm we see this in hope, power, and steadfast love. These are the things that God gives us to support us as we wait. Look at v. 5: **“my hope is from him . . .”** By the grace of God we hope. Hope is similar to faith; in fact they go together. We WAIT for God to fulfill ALL his promises. We WAIT for the coming of the Lord Jesus and the consummation of all things. But, our waiting is not in vain. We wait in hope. Like faith, hope is a most precious gift in this life. In Rom. 8 Paul says that our waiting for these things is in hope. And, this hope is given by the POWER of the Spirit, which David references in v. 11: **“Once God has spoken twice have I heard this; that power belongs to God.”**

Now look with me to Rom. 8:22-25 as we see hope and power together: **“For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For**

who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

Finally, we see the steadfast love of God. Look at v. 12: “**and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love . . .**” The KJV translates this word as “mercy.” It is because in the Hebrew, this word communicates the continual love and mercy of God toward us. And this is most evident in the giving of his Son. In Christ, He gives what is most precious to him, in order to save that who have sinned against him; those who fall short of his glory. We do not get what we deserve. But throughout this life, we wait. And through the power of the Spirit, whom He has given us, we live in the constant grace of God. In hope, by his power, as God pours his steadfast love upon us, we wait.

Let me end with one application as we consider our waiting. We may be shaken, but never destroyed. Look at v. 2: “**He alone is my rock, and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.**” Great trials, tribulations, tests, persecutions, etc. WILL COME. And we will be shaken, but not greatly. In closing let me read some beautiful words from Is. 40:28-31: “**Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.**”