

**DATE: 14 MAY 2023 | SPEAKER: PS DINAH LEE | TOPIC: WAITING WELL**  
**SCRIPTURE: [JAMES 5:7-11](#)**

## SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand that God uses waiting to transform us
2. Trust in God's goodness today and his faithfulness tomorrow

## SERMON SUMMARY

Waiting on God is essential to usher His intent for us. We can expect God to use seasons of waiting to mould us into His likeness, prepare us for what He wants to do through us, and experience His best for us. We wait by trusting that He has a better plan than ours. We wait in humility knowing we are not in control. And we wait in obedience expecting Jesus to return and restore all things. The process of waiting and what God does in our lives during that time of waiting is as important as what we are waiting for.

## SERMON RECAP

No one likes to wait because it's not in our nature to wait. Waiting is very hard. Instant gratification is always preferred. But God is patient and never in a hurry. And He wants us to know how to wait while He works – according to His timetable. How do we wait well?

### 1. Wait on God with Enduring Trust (v 7b)

- In waiting, we can trust that God knows what He is doing
- In trusting, we can wait in expectant hope
- God is at work beneath the surface even when we can't see it
- Desire His timing, not only His resources ([2 Peter 3:8](#))
- God's work in our lives during waiting is as important as what we are waiting for

### 2. Wait on God in Quiet Humility (v 9)

- In waiting, don't grumble, complain or blame others
- In humility, we recognise that we are not in control
- The single most important form that waiting takes is to pray and hear His voice
- God will renew our strength when we are willing to wait ([Isaiah 40:31](#))

### 3. Wait on God as an Act of Obedience (v 7-8)

- We ought to wait for His return where He will restore all things
- The return of the Lord ought to shape what and who we live for
- Sharing in His suffering and waiting go hand in hand with sharing in His glory
- Waiting is part of the process of us becoming what God wants us to be ([Romans 5:3-5](#))

**Conclusion:** We need to wait and live on God's timing and not our own if we want to see His purposes and plans come to pass in our lives. Even in the Waiting, God is Building us and there is Beauty that can come no other way.

“The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in Him.’ The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.” - [Lamentations 3:24-25](#).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Why is waiting on the Lord so difficult in today's day and age? What are the possible reasons why we struggle to wait on the Lord?**

### Leader's Notes

This is a recap question for members to discuss the challenges of waiting on God in a world of fast foods, wifi and Grab rides. Are we controlling time with our inventions and technologies, or is time controlling us by making us more impatient, anxious and edgy? Our mission is to tell the world that God is waiting for them, and yet we can't wait on God ourselves. Why?

### Resource

[Why is waiting on God so difficult?](#) by GotQuestions.org

### Transition

As the world's values start to infiltrate the church, we find ourselves struggling like the world and we don't even know it.

- 2. Do you have an experience where you went ahead with your desires and not waiting on the Lord? What would you do differently now in order to wait upon the Lord?**

### Leader's Notes

This is a relate question for members to share their experiences in both waiting on God and/or going ahead of God, and how those experiences have shaped them and the lessons they have learned through them.

### Resource

[How to wait on the Lord](#) by David Jeremiah

### Transition

Even when we fumble in the waiting test and our plans go awry, it will not derail the plans of God. Jesus has promised to return and make all things new. We can at least wait on that, right?

- 3. What does "the return of the Lord" mean to you; and how does it affect you and the way you live today?**

### Leader's Notes

This is a response question for members to consider how we ought to live in light of Jesus' second coming. Encourage members to be real and transparent. Doctrinally perfect answers are not required here – only honest ones are!

### Resource

[Living in light of Jesus' return](#) by Jason Allen

### Closing

Waiting is a very active part of living. It's anything but passive. Waiting works its way out in very deliberate actions – intentionally searching the Scriptures and praying, and in humility acknowledge we are finite. There's more to learn from waiting than ploughing ahead without God.

## **WORKS**

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

### **1. Sermon Application**

- Pray for God to help us to be humble in waiting and not get impatient and anxious
- Pray for God to help us surrender to His timing and in His purposes for our lives
- Pray that God will use our waiting and suffering to reveal His glory

### **2. World**

- Pray for good weather in Singapore during this hot season.
- Pray for the tense situation along the straits of Taiwan.
- Pray for peace in the Russia-Ukraine war and in the US-China conflict.
- Pray for Thailand as they undergo the elections and appointment of a new government.
- Pray for peace in the Gaza strip (Israel) as violence erupts between Israel and Islamic Jihad.

### **3. Opportunities for Outreach**

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: [rlc.sg/bulletin](http://rlc.sg/bulletin)

- Leaders Advance 2023, 19-21 May.** 237 leaders including Elders, Pastors & Staff will be in Johor Bahru, Malaysia from 19-21 May for Leaders Advance. This annual weekend away brings our leadership community together for spiritual refreshment and a time of connection with one another. Pray along with us for our leaders:
  - For God's presence to surround our leaders as they exalt the name of Jesus and open their hearts to His rule and reign.
  - The spirit of love and unity to bond hearts as leaders connect with one another.
  - The Lord's protection over every participant, for safe travel and smooth immigration clearance.
  - For God's grace and empowerment to be upon those who are speaking, leading worship and serving in various ways.
- Serve with RCS Children's Camp.**
  - Tue-Wed, 13-14 Jun 2023 9am to 4pm, RCS Centre 102 Rivervale Walk #01-54 Singapore 540102
  - As a camp volunteer, you will:
    - Befriend children (aged 7-12) from the community
    - Facilitate small group discussion and activities
    - Affirm child for growth in relationship, participation and good behaviour.
  - Sign up to serve here: [tinyurl.com/kiperkidsvol](http://tinyurl.com/kiperkidsvol)
- An Invitation for Parents with Youths in MegaLife.** Parents of MegaLifers are invited to join their children on *Sat, 17 Jun from 9.30am to 12.30pm* at MegaLife Camp to worship and pray with your child / children as a family. Kindly RSVP online at [rlc.sg/mlc-parents](http://rlc.sg/mlc-parents) by Wed, 31 May.
- Marriage Preparation Course Run 2.** 4 & 25 June & 2 July (3 Sessions). Cost: \$50. Register: [rlc.sg/mpc](http://rlc.sg/mpc).
- Water Baptism Class.** Sat, 3 Jun | 9am-3.30pm | Faith Chapel (Level 2). Please register by Sunday, 28 May at [rlc.sg/baptism-class](http://rlc.sg/baptism-class)
- Bible Equipping Sessions (Book of Acts): The Advance of the Gospel - Relentless and Unstoppable**
  - Taught by David Lim (Academic Dean of ACTS Bible College Singapore)
  - Pre-order your lunch for the Sunday sessions: [rlc.sg/acts-lunch](http://rlc.sg/acts-lunch)
  - **Session 1 Fri, 26 May | 8-10 pm | Victory Chapel**
    - Introduction: Background for the Book of Acts
    - Part 1: The Church Emerges in Power (Acts 1:1-6:7)
  - **Session 2 Sun, 28 May | 11am-3.30pm | Victory Chapel With lunch break in-between**
    - Part 2: The Church Breaks through Barriers (Acts 6:8-12:25)
  - **Session 3 Fri, 2 June, 8-10 pm | Victory Chapel**
    - Part 3: The Church Reaches New Frontiers (Acts 13:1-20:38)
  - **Session 4 | Victory Chapel Sun, 4 Jun | 11 am-3.30 pm | Victory Chapel With lunch break in-between**
    - Part 4: The Church Stands under Pressure (Acts 21:1-28:31)
    - Epilogue: Beyond the Book of Acts
- Restoring the Foundations.** A 2-Part Equipping Seminar. Register online: [rlc.sg/rtf\\_rl](http://rlc.sg/rtf_rl)
  - *PART 2 – ISSUE-FOCUSED MINISTRY TRAINING & ACTIVATION (21 HOURS)*

- Sat, 24 Jun | 9am to 6pm • Sun, 25 Jun | 11am to 6pm • Sat, 1 Jul | 9am to 6pm  
Grace Chapel (Level 1)
- Fees: \$220 (inclusive of meals and materials)
- If you have a heart to help people heal, and find deep and lasting freedom, come join us for this Issue-Focused Ministry (IFM) Training and Activation.
- *Perquisites: Attended the Hope, Healing, and Freedom Seminar; Read the 'Healing and Freedom' Booklet by RTF; Submitted a copy of the RTF Issue-Focused Ministry Personal Questionnaire for himself/herself; Submitted the Application Form to be trained as IFM minister.*

#### 8. RiverLife Prayer Room: May Schedule

- In support of the Isaiah 62 Fast, the RiverLife Prayer Room will be anchoring sessions at Burning Hearts Singapore in the month of May.
- **Tue, 30 May:** The RiverLife Prayer Room will be closed.
- **Tue, 23 May | 8-10pm:**
  - Join the sessions anchored by our RiverLife Prayer Room Team at Burning Hearts Singapore. 66 Kampong Bugis, Level 3, Singapore 338987
  - *The Isaiah 62 Fast is a global 21-days of prayer and fasting from 7 to 28 May 2023. Over 1 million believers will engage in prayer for Israel for at least one hour a day during this period for the increase of God's salvation promises and plans for Jerusalem and Israel.*
  - *Burning Hearts Singapore will be one of the many hubs worldwide, joining the millions of believers in this 21-Day Isaiah 62 Solemn Assembly for Israel.*
  - **Find out how you can participate:** [www.burninghearts.sg/isa62fast-participate](http://www.burninghearts.sg/isa62fast-participate)

#### 9. Church Calendar Highlights

- *Quarter 2*
  - Bible Equipping – Acts: 26 & 28 May, 2 & 4 Jun
  - Children's Camp: 8-10 Jun
  - Youth Camp: 15-18 Jun
  - Cell Revival Nights (Fridays): 2 – 30 Jun
- *Quarter 3*
  - Young Adult Camp: 7-9 Jul
  - 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Weekend: 26-27 Aug
  - Bible Equipping – Leviticus: 15 & 17, 22 & 24 Sep
  - Cells Prayer Night #2: 29 Sep
- *Quarter 4*
  - Equipping Series: 17 & 19, 24 & 26 Nov
  - Christmas Outreach: Dec
  - Cells Prayer Night #3: 29 Dec

#### 10. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Online: [rlc.sg/rpr-watch](http://rlc.sg/rpr-watch))
- *Wed Night Prayer Meeting.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel.

11. **9M Ministry.** The 9M Ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.

- Receive Prayer Support: [rlc.sg/9m](http://rlc.sg/9m)
- Provide Prayer Support: [rlc.sg/serve](http://rlc.sg/serve)



12. **Global Hunger Fund.** This fund will go towards RLC's mission partners to help their local churches and communities gain access to food amid soaring costs. Refer to the Digital Bulletin for more details.
13. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcares>
14. **Call for SuperLife Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at [rlc.sg/serve](http://rlc.sg/serve). Immediate needs:
  - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
  - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
15. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at [rlc.sg/serve](http://rlc.sg/serve) or refer to our digital bulletin for more details.
16. **Bible Reading Plan.** The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: [rlc.sg/brp](http://rlc.sg/brp)
  - 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
  - 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
  - Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)
17. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is [rlc.sg/podcast](http://rlc.sg/podcast) or simply search '*The RiverLife Podcast*' on Spotify.
18. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at [rlc.sg/resource](http://rlc.sg/resource). This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
19. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
20. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at [stories@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:stories@riverlife.org.sg) to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.
21. **Stay Connected with RLC.** Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.
  - **WhatsApp Broadcast:** Text 'Subscribe' to 8923 1939
  - **Telegram Channel:** [t.me/RiverLifeChurch](https://t.me/RiverLifeChurch)
  - **Facebook & Instagram:** [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.facebook.com/riverlifechurchsg)

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