

# Acts 1:9–26

## What to Do While We Wait

click [bit.ly/3qDwxiM](http://bit.ly/3qDwxiM) to see/hear this sermon as preached (or scan QR code→)



**Main idea:** While believers wait for Christ, they express their neediness and desire in prayer, live out their dependence by following His Word, and trust that He is ruling and overruling all things perfectly.

<sup>9</sup> Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, <sup>11</sup> who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey. <sup>13</sup> And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. <sup>14</sup> These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

<sup>15</sup> And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, <sup>16</sup> “Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; <sup>17</sup> for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.”

<sup>18</sup> (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. <sup>19</sup> And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

<sup>20</sup> “For it is written in the Book of Psalms:

*‘Let his dwelling place be desolate, and let no one live in it’;*

and,

*‘Let another take his office.’*

<sup>21</sup> “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

<sup>23</sup> And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup> And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

**Introduction:** So much of the Christian life can be summarized as “waiting upon the Lord.” So, what are we to do while we wait?

### 1. Our inability: the reality of waiting, vv9–11

- “Taken up” ... “taken up from you” ... lack of ability
- “Men of Galilee” (not a compliment) ... “in like manner” (info they didn’t yet have/understand) ... lack of knowledge/understanding
- Have you learned the lesson of your own inability?

### 2. Prayer: the voice of waiting, vv12–14

- A smaller group, among the 120 (v12–13, 14b)
- “continued” (steadfastness, persistence, continuity)
- “with one accord” (“unanimously”—it’s what everyone wanted to do and did)
- “Prayer *and supplication*”—not just for other things, but with supply for your own personal neediness and weakness in mind
- Does your waiting have a “voice”? Set times and continual?

### 3. Scripture: the guide to waiting, vv15–22

- Our comfort: the (Spirit-spoken!) Scripture already has been fulfilled (v15–19)
- Our instructions: believe Scripture prophecies and obey Scripture commands (v20)
- Jesus’s own words (v21–22), cf. v5–8.
- Did Peter get this wrong? Maybe. And you often will. But the principle of following Scripture still stands.
- How do your daily and weekly habits, your mental and emotional habits, reflect Scripture as your guide?

### 4. Trust: the heart of waiting, v23–26

- The Lord knows the hearts of all
- The Lord has chosen what He’s going to do and through whom
- The Lord knows who is going to turn out to be a fraud
- Even if they were wrong, the lot still fell according to the Providence of the Lord (cf. Prov 16:33).
- We have (and they soon would have) a tremendous advantage: the gospel ministry of the Holy Spirit! With the arrival of the Spirit, there was no more lot-casting. Just holy decision-making that trusted that the Spirit was getting it right.
- How do your responses to Providence reflect a trust that the Lord is getting it right? How does your approach to decision-making bear out that You trust that the Spirit is the One Who will help you make a good one? How does your response to decision-making bear out that You trust that the Spirit has gotten it right (even if you didn’t)?

**Conclusion:** We are weak, but the Lord Himself is our strength. So let us seek that strength in prayer, and rely upon that strength in obedience, trusting that the Lord sees and plans all and that He is getting it right!

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

Acts chapter 1 versus 9 through 26. These are God's words. So let us be careful of how we hear them. Now, when he had spoken these things while they watched, he was taken up and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven, as he went up, behold two men stood by them.

In white apparel, who also, said, Men of Galilee, Why do you stand gazing up and to heaven This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven? Will so come in like manner? As you saw him go into heaven, Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem.

A Sabbath day's journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying Peter, James John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas Bartholomew, and Matthew James, the son of Alphaeus and Simon Zealot and Judas, the son of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication with the women and marry the mother of Jesus.

And, with his brothers And in those days, Peter stood up, in the midst of the disciples to altogether, the number of names, was about a hundred and twenty and said, men and brethren. This scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested.

Jesus for, he was numbered with us and obtained. A part in this ministry. Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity and fell had long. He burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out, and it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem.

So that so that field is called in their own language Akel. Dama, that is field of blood for it is written. In the book of Psalms, let his dwelling place be desolate and let no one live in it. And Let another take his office. Therefore of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us.

Beginning from the baptism of John to that day when he was taken up from us, One of these must become a witness of with us of His resurrection. And they proposed too. Joseph called Barcabus. Who was surnamed Justice and Matthias, I'm sorry. And Matthias and they prayed and said you O, Lord, who know the hearts of all.

So which of these two you have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship From which Judas by transgression fell that he might go to his own place and they cast their lots. And the lot fell on Matthias and he was numbered with the 11 apostles So far.

The reading of God's inspired and inerrant word. We praise him that he has given us to worship him by hearing the preaching of it as well. Please be seated.

I suppose the disciples didn't know what they were to do, while they waited Jesus had told them to stay in Jerusalem and maybe the fact that the amount of olives is just a couple of miles Sabbath day's journey and therefore in the Judaistic way of thinking, not a real journey because you couldn't do it if it was on the Sabbath perhaps they thought that that was close enough and that's where they were supposed to stay.

Our passage ends up with them children. As perhaps you have done some time with your family, or with your friends standing around after something, very impressive or intense has happened and not sure what to do next. And so they're the Lord Jesus tells after he has spoken these things, he ascends and they're standing and they are waiting.

And the Lord makes two men appear Probably angels, although it would be very interesting If it was another appearance of Moses and Elijah as some have thought. Perhaps, who are God's great messengers and appeared with him on the Mount of Transfiguration and their clothing is white and particularly Elijah had proceeded Christ in this in this ascending into heaven.

And so it's almost certainly angels who stand with them, but they don't know what to do and then they go back to Jerusalem and they're waiting. And again, they're not sure what to do. They're sure of one thing to do and that is to praise Jesus as their God.

And so those are the last words we heard in the Gospel of Luke, the first of these, two volumes that they were continually in the temple, praising, the Lord. Jesus praising God. So that was one thing that they do. And then we see them Also in the passage praying and we see them considering and at least trying to apply scripture and operating out of trust that the Lord is getting it, right?

Even if we do not get it right, a trust that for us includes what they were waiting for knowing the ministry of the Holy Spirit to us and among us. And much of the Christian life is like this, Much of the Christian life can be summarized as waiting upon the Lord.

We are at the very least waiting for his return, That which the two men promised as they were gazing up into heaven And not sure what to do. The two men say, men of Galilee, Why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same. Jesus, who has taken up from you into heaven?

Will so come in like manner? As you saw him go into Heaven and Jesus hasn't done that yet. We are still waiting for that to happen. In fact, the New Testament calls believers, those who have loved his appearing and it concludes or almost at its very end, we find that one of the things that the Holy Spirit teaches

those who are the bride, those who are joined to Jesus, through faith Members of his body members of his bride, one of the things the Holy Spirit teaches us to do is to pray.

Come The Spirit and the bride long for Jesus to return in the clouds just as his promised here. And so there's that there's that great waiting upon the Lord and what are we to do while we wait? Do we just stand gazing? There are some people who have actually made that mistake.

You may think it's silly children, but We're sinful, and we're foolish and we're weak, and we can get silly. There are people who have thought that they knew better than Jesus because he said, you couldn't know the time and then someone who seemed smart or spiritual has come along and said you can know the time and they never say, you know, 1431 years from now they say in a few months or next year, So you better buy my book and be ready and the sort of response to that is usually the spiritual equivalent of standing in gazing.

Stop trying to operate in this world. You assume it's done and you're just kind of twiddling your thumbs and you need two messengers from God, to come and say, why are you just standing there? He's going to return. There's nothing you can do about it, But the question is, what do we do while we wait?

Now, the apostles had had the Lord, Jesus say not many days from now in verse 5, that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit that the Holy Spirit would. And we find this out because we've kind of messed up the word baptized after 2000 years of space Is there.

Well, what does that mean? Well, we find out what it means when the Holy Spirit is poured out. And so they're waiting. I mean, they wouldn't have been confused about baptism. They've seen it and they're waiting for the Holy Spirit to be poured out. And they know it's not many days.

So we could probably give them more excuse than we can give ourselves for just standing around gazing. But as they Follow the Lord, Jesus Christ, and have had these 40 days with Him of concentrated instruction, We find an example here. That's a good biblical example, corroborated by other scripture of what to do while you.

Wait for God. Now for many of you this really hits home. Perhaps you are in a transitional season of life. You're coming towards the end of what we call childhood or youth and you're coming, or have come into the beginning of an adult of adulthood, you're looking for a husband or you're looking for a wife, praying that the Lord would bring one to you.

You're maybe trying to figure out what you are going to do for work. So that you may support that wife that you're hoping for and the children that you're hoping that God will give you by that wife and thinking about work, for many means thinking about school. There are certain things that that you can do for work for which something could a degree.

Yes. Six. Figure purchase of a piece of paper that you don't know what it is when you start buying it and you don't know what you will do with it when you finish buying it. So you know, one of the most wise and judicious purchases Americans make and yet there are some things to do that.

You need that piece of paper. It unlocks doors and so many are thinking about what school do I go to There. Are those who find that their work is not helping them take care of their family or as requiring them to compromise their conscience before God and they are looking.

Perhaps for other work. The Lord brings us through seasons and which we are bereaved and we're not sure what going on from here. Looks like There are some who come into a season in which they're completely unattached And now they have all sorts of time and options and perhaps they even feel like they really miss those things that others are attached to or they're just not sure what to do with all that time or perhaps.

They're just indulging, the flesh and following the American dream. Be a child for as long as you can until you have to do something in order to accumulate money, but do that as quickly as possible so that you can go back to being a child and stop working and just play for the rest of your life.

We do a lot of waiting upon the Lord for what his next providence, in our life is going to be and many people in those transition periods. Some of you children, feel like you've been waiting your whole life to be big and well when it decides when you can go to bed or what you get to do or to have, you're not really trying to be big when it comes to paying the bills and doing the chores and the maintenance, maybe by the Lord's grace you are.

But you're you're flesh. Doesn't want those things And in all of the different seasons of waiting upon God, waiting for some long requested. Good thing from him to be answered waiting for, what is next? We can fall into this spiritual or life equivalent of standing around gazing purposeless inactivity.

Well, thankfully the Lord didn't permit his, his people, His disciples to continue long in that and he gives us in this passage in particular An example that teaches us some of the principles of what to do while we wait, We'll consider those under the following headings this morning. First the reality of waiting or our inability, The reason you and I have to wait just was we can't make happen what we need to happen.

It wouldn't be waiting if you could, But we are weak. The Lord is sovereign and we are not. He is able and we trust him and we do what He has given us to be able to do but so much is waiting upon him. So our inability the reality of waiting and then prayer, the voice of waiting Scripture.

The guide to waiting and trust the heart of waiting First, then our inability the reality of waiting. What brings the apostles to the point that they are standing gazing up in the sky? Well, when Jesus had spoken in these things while they watched he was taken up, and then in verse 11, this same Jesus who has taken up from you.

They couldn't do anything about him and it would have been absolutely silly if they had tried. Can you imagine children? Jesus starts to rise from the ground and Peter, dives and John dives. And each of them grab a leg and try to hold him down. Now if they had been paying attention and Jesus saying and it'll be good for me to leave you because if I don't leave you and depart then I won't send or you you know the other helper this the Holy Spirit won't come and be with each one of you individually throughout this life.

As the Lord Jesus was with his disciples for those three years that other paraclete. I mean you hear people say the paraclete. Do you want to say? Well, which one Jesus was the apparently as marvelous to think about the gift of the Holy Spirit. So if they understood well and we trust that they did, they were instructed by Jesus, they wouldn't want to grab and pull him down but they couldn't keep him from going.

If they had wanted to and they couldn't bring him back And they couldn't bring the Holy Spirit down. Only God can give God and the Holy Spirit is God, The Spirit is the Lord. And so, one of the reasons that we have to wait, the reality of waiting is that there are a lot of things that we're just unable to do.

There are actually not just unable to bring him back but part of the waiting is our lack of knowledge are not knowing exactly what we should do. And we may need instruction, We may need as we cry out to God for what we need, We may need wisdom in order what to do next.

Even in those things that we are able, when the two men say men of Galilee That would not have been a compliment in 33, or possibly 34 AD or 30 AD. It wouldn't have been a compliment. In fact, You hear in the Gospels things like Is anything good ever come out of Galilee.

And you Remember that, these guys aren't just you know look down upon by the culture but they're also not home. Thereby Jerusalem and they are from Galilee. What are they going to do? Stand on a mountain. Two miles out. Yeah, or a big hill. Two miles northeast of Jerusalem, you know, they need to find their host home.

As it were, They don't know what to do. Jesus had told them that he would be coming on the clouds but We don't seem to remember that and perhaps they hadn't understood exactly what that meant. And when the Lord sends these two men who stand next to them, the two men supply them with more information and clarify for them things.

The Lord. Jesus has told them we wait because we lack ability we wait because we lack knowledge and understanding. And we need the Lord to increase our knowledge and understanding so that we can know what to do next much better. Right? Young men who as we were thinking yesterday at the men's breakfast about taming the temper.

And one of the benefits that the scripture and especially Proverbs holds before us of a patient spirit is that it gives you more time. If you don't react immediately, you have more time to think about how to react more wisely. And sometimes We don't like the waiting, but we need to wait because we don't have the wisdom for what to do next yet and we must study and we must be instructed and things that the Lord Jesus has already told us.

And we think we know what that means. We need him to send someone who speaks more clearly to us from his word and improves our knowledge. The reality of waiting is connected to our inability. Have you learned the lesson of your own inability? And that sometimes this just requires patience in life.

Patients, with being unable patients with lacking, the wisdom, and understanding that you need, and perhaps as you are waiting and impatient to know what to do. Next might not be that. The Lord is training, you to see that lack of ability, and that lack of understanding, give you a time of waiting to grow in the grace and the knowledge of Christ grow and understanding of his word and how to apply it in life.

Well, the reality of our waiting is because of and it shows us our inability and those who are waiting, they have a particular language. They have a particular dialect that they speak. Now we're familiar with with things like this. I'm in Tennessee, I suspect. There's a little bit. Not that much right now of a southern inflection in my voice, but that's because you guys understand me.

Well, The first southern church, I preached in was in much more rural than this Mississippi. And I preach my first sermon. And this sweet old elders, said slow down. And So the next week back, then I preached from a manuscript. I read it. It's not great for eye contact.

But I preached like this and at the end of the service, The sweet old elder said, You got to slow down. So the next week, a preach like this and not exactly like that. I'm trying to remember his voice means, I've got a phone call to make. Thank God.

But I imitated the inflection as best as I could. And after the service, he said that was great. Why didn't you preach like that to begin with? And then I was recording and uploading the sermons. Even way back and those old days and my family and friends from Michigan, who heard said, what is the matter with you?

What happened?

But there's a language that can belong to a group of people. We have a language like that. Don't we Westminster Confession and Catechisms you talk about theological or spiritual things and you just have those phrases and sentences that summarize and synthesize all of those Bible passages that we could take 17 weeks to study.

But that part of the confession is summarized in two questions from this order. Catechism and all that Bible is and you use those phrases or those sentences with a believer from another culture, who speaks another languages. As language. And in fact, he uses them with you because that's most of the English that he knows.

And you have that language. Well, there is a language. There is a voice that belongs to those who wait upon the Lord, and that is prayer. In fact, so closely as prayer united to waiting upon the Lord that we sing and pray with words that God has put in our mouths in the Psalms I waited upon the Lord.

Or this poor man. Waited upon the Lord. And he heard my cry. You see the waiting isn't passive. Is it if you're waiting upon the Lord then you're asking Him for what he will do. And for what you need in order to do it, you will do. And for the knowledge to know what you should do.

Waiting has a voice and prayer, is the voice of waiting. And so it is here in our passage, they return to the Jerusalem from the mountain called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Saturday's journey. And when they had entered, they went into the upper room where they were staying And it gives us a list of who is there, because we're going to find out in the second half of verse 14.

That what they do there is what a lot of them were doing praying as the voice of waiting, but there's not room for a hundred and twenty in the upper room or probably not. When you can try to do the clown car thing and see how many you can cram into there.

But this smaller group is continuing These all continued with one accord in prayer And the word continued. It describes persistence and steadfastness and an unwillingness to give it up. So it's not like they returned from, on the day of the ascension, they returned to Jerusalem. They went up into the upper room, perhaps the same upper room, which they had had the last supper On the night.

The Jesus was betrayed and they have a prayer meeting and they say, well, we prayed Now, let's wait. Holy Spirit. Doesn't come yet. No, they were committed to praying until the Holy Spirit came, don't give up on praying when you're waiting upon if you don't have wisdom yet keep praying for it.

If the Lord has not brought to you way to serve or that husband or wife that you've been looking after or work that would enable you not only to provide for your family but so that you wouldn't be tempted to steal. And, you know, one of those New Testament reasons to work that you might have extra to give to someone else when they have, if the Lord hasn't given you gainful employment, you keep praying The Lord, hadn't converted, your child.

You keep praying. If you're crying out to God for persecuted church or people and it's been a couple of years, which you think is a long time because you and I are dust and the Lord hasn't delivered yet. You keep praying Now they had, you know, about a week, but they continued and they continued unanimously.

The word that has translated with one. Accord means. Everyone was was all in on it. They had all agreed to it. They were all willing, they they prayed unanimously. The Lord loves, the corporate agreed unified worship of his people and prayer, as an act of worship. One of the one of the essential components of worship is recognizing that.

God is God. And we are not. That means we pray to Him. That's why we don't pray to men, You can ask men to pray for us. Those who you could talk to and those who can hear you not those between whom and you. There is an abyss that no one can cross.

So we don't ask saints who are dead to pray for us. It's a bunch of living saints in the room. You can ask them to pray for you but we don't pray to them. The Lord loves the corporate worship of His people. The Lord loves the gates of Jerusalem more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

So many times in the Psalm, the psalmist, and even especially times, where David in particular is foreshadowing Christ. The desire isn't to get away with God, although the Lord Jesus displays that doesn't in the gospels getting away with God. But the ultimate, the climax, the apex, the highest is to worship God and the assembly of his saints.

And here they didn't just all kind of go off on their own, but they prayed unanimously and not just with prayer. But with supplication, these all continued with one accord in prayer, asking God to do what God alone can do and supplication. Asking God to sustain us in doing What we are called to do.

I mean, both are part of prayer, aren't they? Asking God to act but knowing that God has also in commanded me to do many things. But I don't have in me the ability to do those things. You know, I need life and breath and food and in a lot of situations money and clothing and shelter in favor in the eyes of others and I need all of those things but I need even more than that the spirits work in my heart giving me to see His glory and to see his love for me in the gospel.

So that what I do will be an actual good work that comes for the desire of his glory and a loving him, because he first loved me so that I will be not just doing what I need to do. But doing it in response to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the love of God and being the one who loves him and therefore keeps His commandments.

Because the Lord doesn't just say that. If A then B, but in that particular situation, if we're not responding or acting out of love for him, we're not actually keeping His commandments. Are we? God wants the heart. The sum of the law is to love him with all the heart and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

And so we need supply. That's best way to remember. Well maybe it's not the best. That's been the most helpful to me children. You hear sometimes big words in church supplication and just means you need supply. And you are constantly running out and God never does. I need more faith.

I need more strength. Need more love for God. I need more delight in His glory and desire that he would be glorified. I need more patience with my kids need. More humility under my parents. I need tender-hearted and forgivingness with other people in the church, because sinners are the only ones that God makes churches out of this side of glory.

I need. I need a, it's true. You give voice to that need and ask him not just for the things you want him to do. But knowing that you are so needy that he would supply supplicate him for what you need in order to do what he has said for you to do.

Prayer is the voice of waiting and therefore we ought to be doing it continually that constant lifting up of the heart towards the Lord which means you and I need to do it at set times. If anyone could have gotten away with well, I pray. Continually would have been Jesus, right?

And yet we see him observing set times of prayer. He wasn't even sinful but he had given he'd taken on to himself a true humanity and he was weak. It was finite and he knew that he needed to actively maintain the continuous prayer with those set times. I ask the young men, a question at the men's breakfast yesterday we were talking about how in order to respond.

Well, in situations where we're tempted to be angry. One of the things that we need is to have God always before us both remembering that at everything that is right to be angry at God is angrier than I am. And so he's gonna take care of whatever vengeance is necessary or whatever fixing is necessary.

And also to remember that I'm before the one who has forgiven me an infinite amount, And I don't want to be unforgiving with the one who has forgiven me, the tiny amount in front of God. And so that's well, how do you remember that? You're in front of God.

Do you naturally think of being before the face of God all the time? And I was actually kind of getting, at least, you know, start your day with some time before God and prayer, reading the Word, call it devotions or secret worshiper. What spend some time with God. One of the one of the kids, one of the young men actually got us into the first Thessalonians 5 break continually by saying, you know, you could set an alarm.

The remember that God is alarm. I forget what exactly he called it and just have it go off every hour. And as you know a household that is into currently potty training a dog and potty training a human You know we have an hourly alarm like that and is not the knowledge of God much better but it's not just hourly is it?

According to scriptures, continually, You're not going to get there without set times of prayer. You are a waiter upon God, if you are a Christian and one of the languages that you must speak your home accent dialect, what to be prayer set times, and continue Scripture as the guide to waiting.

Now one of the comforts or our one of the great comforts that we have is that all you know that Scripture has already been fulfilled. Judas was a problem for these apostles. He had been one of the 12 He had looked and spoke in so much like them that when Jesus said it was one of them, they didn't know.

Which, In fact, at least one gospel accounts says each of them thought it was. He is that, I is it I and they all spoke thus. And so the fact that Judas could have been where he was and who he was and done what he did was a problem.

And so the fact that Scripture was being fulfilled was part of the solution and those days, Peter stood up and the midst of the disciples according to the number of the names, there was about a hundred and twenty and he said, which probably indicates that this is happening in the temple court.

Not in the upper room, by the way, men and brethren. This scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas. Oh, isn't that marvelous? There's they're sitting there they're waiting for the Holy Spirit to come upon them, aren't they? But Peter gets up and he says don't you know we already have a ministry of the Holy Spirit.

He has spoken. What the prophets of written? Even more than that for you. And for me, because God, the Lord Jesus had promised in John chapter 16 that although, there were many things that remained that he wished or not, that he'd not wished, he desired that, he could tell them, he would send the Holy Spirit in the Holy Spirit.

Would tell them the things that remained.

And so part of waiting upon God, and even specially spark of waiting upon the Holy Spirit, is realizing that we have an entire body of words that the Holy Spirit has already spoken to us. He's not ignorant to the fact that the Psalms that he's quoting were penned by David, He is just clued into the fact that David was so controlled by or carried along by to use the Apostolic word from from Peter who was also being carried by the Spirit.

As he wrote those, he was so carried along by the Holy Spirit that it was the Holy Spirit. Speaking those words the Lord has told us not just specifically about Judas. Although realizing that there were so many specific prophecies about Judas, the betrayer would have been a great comfort to them.

What the Holy Spirit spoke has come true. Now, the Holy Spirit who had spoken those things, he is being sent to help us and he whose word always comes true. Who is God, is him, who is coming to help us? Who is God? And so, the first place Scripture is our guide as we wait because our waiting doesn't surprise God.

In fact, he has told us that we are going to be unable. He's told us that we're going to lack wisdom and that if we do, we should ask him. He has told us that we are going to have trouble in this world. He's told us that if we desire to live a godly life will be persecuted.

He's told us that we have to be patient and kind and loving tender-hearted and forgiving one another he's told you that you're gonna be sinned against, He's told you that you're going to sin against others and they're all these things that the Holy Spirit has told us that when we realize that even in our time of waiting, We're in a period that God has told us about.

We get comfort, but we also get instruction. Not only has the Spirit said things in in verses, 50 15 into 17, he refers to him, having the spirit having said things, but also, there is something that needs to come along. Let another take his office. Now there's some question here of whether this was the right time and the right way and we'll go ahead and and pull it would be from 3D if you're following on the outline of whether Peter's conclusion.

Was correct because his conclusion is that there can only be one. How do we know that because they used Jesus's parameters from verse. Verse 5 for John truly baptized with water but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Many days from now and verse 8, You shall receive power.

When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to me.

They use Jesus's parameters and they still come up with two And then I don't say, oh well that's fine. We can have 13, We'll take Joseph for Sabis Amethias Now, they know the numbers are supposed to be 12. We've got a problem because they pray and they say, which one of these, two of you chosen to be number 12 and then in a few chapters Jesus appears in select another number 12.

So there's actually some question here of whether it was right to ordain Mathias or maybe Matthias was a temporary placeholder and after the apostleship of Paul is clear, you know, Matthias steps down from office, we don't know. And that's part of the humility of following scripture is it. Sometimes we're not going to know if we're doing it, right?

But we do know that we have to follow Scripture and sometimes one of the trickiest places is seeing things that Jesus says he will do. And taking that as something that we ought to do, one of the most common of those in the last. I don't know how many years it won't matter to you.

If I got the church history, right has been behold. I am making all things new and we ought to rejoice. If anyone is Christ new creation, you want to see new creation, you better be looking at believers. But I for decades have heard people say, well, we're, we're redeeming this and we're redeeming that and, you know, you're redeeming fast food and we're redeeming film, and we're redeeming, all these things.

And and we're making a uniquely Christian version of every one of those things and they say behold I'm making all things we need to redeem the culture. Well, One of the hard things sometimes in Scripture is to see something that God says he will do and know that. That's what God says He will do.

It's understand the difference between prophecy and prescription or prediction and prescription. It's better set of words. The Lord said, let another man take his office. They were going to the scriptures to figure out what needed to be done. And even if they got it wrong at least they were getting it wrong out of following what Jesus had taught them for 40 days that the scriptures must be fulfilled.

And the part that the Christ would suffer and rise again after three days from the dead had been fulfilled. And the part that repentance and remission of sins would be proclaimed in his name. To all the nations must be fulfilled and they were to do that. And the part led another take his office While, they know from Jesus, it must be fulfilled.

So, at least they're following, what Christ has given. That Scripture is not just our comfort, but Scripture gives us our instructions. I don't know what to do with my life. I'm seeking God's. Will you start with the Ten Commandments? Those are things that you're supposed to do with your life or not to as the, you know, the different commandments.

Go start with all the prescriptions and scripture, There's plenty of things there. Did Peter get this wrong? Maybe and you often will but the script principle of scripture being your prescriptions or containing your prescriptions still stands? Well scripture is what comforts us while we wait and what directs us in what to do.

How do your daily and weekly habits? Reflect that.

You know, just as waiting has a voice, which is prayer. Waiting has a guide, which is the Bible, How do your mental and emotional habits? Reflect that When you feel something about something situation, someone something they did, or you consumed with how that made you feel. Do you ever use the Bible to ask yourself?

Is it right for you? To feel like this is it right? For you. Jonah to be so upset. Why are you cast down on my soul? How should I feel about this one of our brothers at the table yesterday? We're talking about responding to persecution and he said, well it says blaster you.

So if you remember what the Bible says, you're not going to be so upset that you got persecuted. In fact, it says, rejoice and be exceedingly. Glad. How about your mental life? You ever practice just meditating upon scripture. Oh pick a verse from the smorgasbord you get every Lord's day morning and afternoon.

So well, you know that one really hit home. I'm going to think about that later and then take when you get home that evening, maybe after the kids are in bed and well you're exhausted and everything's fading to black at that point. But some other time then you say here's the portion of scripture in which God met me now, I'm just gonna meditate upon that text for five minutes.

You know, even the pagan world around us has realized now, it doesn't mean what they think. It means They say mindfulness and it's all like susceptibility to my flesh and every demon that wants a shot at me. But did you know that that's actually a corruption of something that we ought to be doing thinking upon meditating upon God's Word, which is taught over and over again, through the scriptures?

Well, if it's our comfort, if it's our prescript, if it contains our prescriptions, if it's the guide for waiting, then not only are daily and weekly habits in study personal, and family, and corporate. But also in our mental and emotional habits should reflect the fact that Scriptures are guide.

Hmm. Finally, trust is the heart of waiting. They're waiting upon the Lord because he is the Lord and you know, that he knows what He is doing. They proposed the two verse 23 and they pray and say you, oh, Lord, know the hearts of all show which of these two you have chosen.

They know that the Lord knows the hearts of all that, they know, they know that the Lord has chosen someone to be the 12th Apostle. You know that the Lord has chosen you for your life. He's chosen your parents for you and then he says, honor your father and your mother and you know get to say.

But God my mom. Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church, but my wife. Yeah. Your wife whom God in his providence appointed, you Maybe through your stupidity And yet. He's given you commands about that wife. Oh, Lord these children. You gave me God forbid and help us.

When we can actually recognize as we complain to him, that those particular children were selected for us in his providence.

But it is part of waiting upon the Lord to know that he has chosen whom he will have where So he knows all he has planned all these done it. Well, he knows who's going to turn out to be a fraud. Lonely, God forbid. Paul said after preaching to others, he was concerned that he himself might be disqualified.

But if through a complex and it would have to be a lot of other people sending to for me to backslide like that. But if I were to have some spectacular moral failure, which has happened in a lot of churches, Would you not be able to differentiate and say the Lord knew?

I mean, that's what had happened to them Judas, and they know he knew Judas, but they also know. He knew whom he wanted in the places that they were When they're saying whom you have chosen to be number 12. Well, for the 11, there's massive encouragement in that. Isn't there because they don't have in themselves the strength or the goodness or the knowledge or the effectiveness with people or the administrative skills for planting churches.

Here you go through church planter assessment and you would have failed all the men that Jesus chose to plant. The first churches.

But when they say, we know you, when they say the one that you have chosen, there's implied. Isn't that The Lord chose me for my spot and so he has done for every one of you Christians and you can depend upon him and you can trust him. That's part of waiting Waiting upon.

The Lord is not the shaky thing where everything is up in the air and it could all fall apart at any moment. Until God finally brings you out. It's the knowledge that he knows all the parameters of your situation and he chose you for your situation and he has made himself your supply for your neediness in your situation.

Yeah, this is the lockcast the last lock casting in the Bible which is maybe another Another factor in favor of saying. Maybe Peter got it wrong, because in the rest of the Bible, decision-making isn't made by Lockcasting Now is not wrong to cast. Lots. Proverbs 16 says that the law is cast in the lap and the decision is from the Lord.

So there were resting upon that but they had new instructions And once the Holy Spirit came there's never lock casting again in the Bible and it is a It is less than honoring to the Holy Spirit for us to make decisions by casting. Lots, who study the word, get the good counsel that you can.

You pray to God for wisdom and you make a choice. He said, God, the Holy Spirit is my helper, you're not blaming him, in case you got it wrong. You know, we wouldn't blame the providence of God. If Matthias wasn't supposed to be apostle, number 12, But you're saying the Holy Spirit is my helper and I'm dependent upon him.



And that doesn't, excuse, not doing my research or practicing wisdom, or asking God for help or seeking counsel. But it does mean that when I make my choice, I don't tremble that somehow I've changed the course of history. We've got ourselves outside. The will of God like there are all these like multiple universe timestreams and there's one that has the will of God in it and you got to get every decision your whole life right to stay in that one.

I know from some of your faces, that sounds ridiculous. But that's a way a lot of believers live part of way to the heart of waiting is trusting the Lord. And how much more can you because you're not waiting until the Holy Spirit is poured out. If you're a believer you have him.

Romans 8 says, as many as are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. And so if the Holy Spirit has trained your heart to call God Abba to call God your Father, the Holy Spirit is leading you. Now you can you can harden your heart against him.

You can quench the spirit, not listen to him. You can grieve the spirit. There's a lot of it doesn't mean you can't ever do wrong, but it means you trust him. He is God the third person just as Jesus as God the second person and He has with you and leading you and loves you and sustains you and he knows everything.

We are weak, But the Lord Himself is our strength. So let us seek that strength in prayer. Let us rely upon that strength in obeying Scripture and let us trust the Lord sees and plans. All and even if we're not getting things right, He is always getting it, right.

Amen. Let us pray.