

something that can eventually produce a fruit. But when God sees a seed, He looks down the corridor of time and sees the harvest of an orchard. God's math is not linear it is exponential. Consider the example of the loaves and fishes from the sermon on the mount.

9 "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?" ... 11 Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. - John 6:9, 11 NLT

*The disciples observed the offering of 5 loaves and 2 fish through a logical lens and asked what good will this do in a crowd of 5,000? But Jesus saw the potential in a small offering and multiplied it to more than meet the need. We are watching God move at New Life, and God sees the potential ahead. In what areas do you see God moving and what is the potential you can imagine that lies ahead for our church body?*

#### **WRAP-UP**

*Did you know that New Life Church is 75 years old this year? We have been waiting and watching as God has moved over many seasons at our church. But we see God moving now and we want to catch the vision of the potential for even more of a harvest to come. Next week is Pledge Sunday. We don't know how much God has prompted this body to donate towards our Flourish campaign, but we know he can multiply 5 loaves and 2 fish to feed 5,000 and we believe He will multiply our offering to do great things for the Kingdom.*

#### **MEMORY VERSE**

*It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.*

*- 1 Corinthians 3:7 NLT*

*Challenge- Over the past several weeks we have encouraged everyone to seek God for direction concerning their part in our Flourish campaign. This week, ask God what He would have you do and when you hear His answer make your pledge using our pledge link QR code(<https://www.newlifepismo.com/flourish>) Or if you prefer, bring your gift to church next Sunday.*



## **Waiting on the Lord**

### Flourish Week 6

#### **INTRODUCTION**

No matter your age, during your lifetime, you've probably noticed that things are happening more and more quickly, and we are less and less tolerant of waiting. When was the last time you opened a dictionary (not digital) to search for a spelling or definition? Don't we expect Amazon to deliver any purchase to our doorstep within 48 hours? Even Disney made a way to bypass those inevitably long lines with lightning lanes, and genie+. We really don't want to wait for anything anymore. But God made waiting a part of the natural order of things. He is ultimately in control of time. So, like it or not, we must learn to wait on the Lord.

#### **Ice Breaker**

*How long will you stay on hold before you hang up a phone call?*

#### **Key Passage**

*It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.*

*- 1 Corinthians 3:7 NLT*

#### **STUDY QUESTIONS**

##### **1. Waiting- accept it or challenge it?**

Waiting is a part of God's natural order. We see this throughout creation as the seasons change, and plants mature. Growth takes time, and so we wait. We can choose to either accept it or challenge it. One perspective may be that waiting is a waste of time when nothing gets done, and as it's something to be avoided. The problem is, if we don't wait for God to move, then we may decide to follow our own plans instead of His. Sometimes that can be disastrous.

*Do you remember a time when you didn't wait, and ran ahead of God, or perhaps a time when you had a lengthy wait, but you eventually saw God's plans unfold?*

*7 Be still in the presence of the LORD and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes. - Psalm 37:7 NLT*

Psalm 37 tells us that as we wait, we shouldn't worry or fret about evil people or that bad things they might do. Worrying only robs you of your peace. Waiting might not come easily to us, but it gives God the opportunity to mature us.

## **2. Dependence on God**

Last week we learned about abiding, or remaining attached to our source of life, Jesus. We heard that apart from Jesus we could do nothing. But it is through waiting on God that we grow in our trust and dependence on Him and appreciate how much we need to hold fast to Jesus.

*5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. - Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT*

*What do we find contrasted with trusting God in Proverbs 3:5 (what is it we shouldn't be doing)? Our tendency may be to trust God just a little, but verse 5 says we are to trust with our whole heart. How is the concept of complete dependence on God reinforced in verse 6? When we seek God's will, we must expect to hear God speak to us. What way or ways do you most often hear God's direction in your life?*

Self-reliance, and independence are admirable in many ways, but not when they undermine our trust in God. Scripture tells us not to depend on our own understanding, but to trust God. Unfortunately, we often we act more like we believe that God helps those who help themselves (that comes from Ben Franklin by the way).

*And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame. - 1 John 2:28 NLT*

In 1 John 2:28 we see how we benefit by remaining in Christ, we don't feel the fear caused by shame. Guilt or shame can separate us from God because we feel condemned and fear punishment. The remedy is to abide in Christ because that can keep us from the temptation to sin, but also because we experience more of God's love and so we are not condemned when we sin but are convicted that we need His forgiveness to restore us.

*The word for abiding is meno in the Greek and can also be translated as to wait. Waiting does not mean doing nothing, instead we are actively waiting while we remain in Christ. What activities can you engage in while you are waiting for God to move or direct you in a particular situation? Are there any types of situations you find especially hard to wait on God for (traffic, restaurants, finances, relationships, health)*

## **3. Patience**

Another companion to waiting is patience. And if this is an area you need to grow in, God will certainly use waiting to develop it. You don't have to be patient to wait, but if you are impatient, you probably won't wait for long.

Patience is one of the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians chapter 5.

*22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! - Galatians 5:22-23 NLT*

*Which of the fruit of the Spirit do you find has a direct link to patience; for instance, when I am patient with someone, I am showing them that I love them.*

## **4. Potential – God's Math**

*In our key verse (1 Corinthians 3:7 NLT) the important thing is that God makes the seed grow. He may take His time doing so, but God is able to produce a bountiful harvest that starts with one small seed. Our viewpoint tends to be limited and linear. We may see a seed as*