

It's Tough to Wait

By Terry Magness

Perhaps one of the most difficult things for most of us to do is to wait. Servicemen come to mind. I have known not a few men who have served in our Armed Forces, and all have at least this one thing in common....they do not like to wait, particularly in a line. There are lines everywhere for almost everything these days; traffic lines, ticket lines, checkout lines, ladies room lines, fast food lines, and clothes lines. (Well, I guess not so much anymore.) At any rate, we do a lot of waiting. We wait for appointments, phone calls, test results, weather reports, and paychecks. Some are waiting for wayward children, for their loved one to get well, for their home to sell or for a home loan to go through, while others are waiting for jobs.

It is tough to wait. Waiting means expecting, looking to, waiting for, on, or upon (patiently). That might seem like an impossible, overwhelming task in some instances, were it not for one thing, or perhaps I should say, one person. Isaiah put it this way, "Have you not known, have you not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, doesn't grow tired and faint, neither is he weary? There is no searching the depths of his understanding and wisdom. He gives power to those who are weary, and to those who have no might he increases their strength. Even the youth will grow tired and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall. But those who wait upon the LORD will renew their strength, they will ascend upwards on wings as eagles; they will run and not be weary, and they will walk and not faint."—Isaiah 40:28-31

To wait in ones own strength can bring frustration, struggle, anger, guilt, worry, fatigue, and even hopelessness. But to wait upon One who is totally trustworthy, the One who knows all, who is all powerful, and is always with you in the midst of your trial, who will strengthen you in your weariness, and who will cause you to soar above the current circumstances, is to invite comfort, rest, peace, and hope in the midst of your storm. He will not fail you.

"I would have fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and he will strengthen your heart. Wait, I say, on the LORD."—Psalms 27:13-14