

Please Wait by Lydia Harris

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. Psalm 40:1 (RSV)

Read: Psalm 130

No matter what it is, waiting is hard. Arriving for my medical appointment, I was told, "Please wait in the waiting room." In my mind, please and wait don't belong together. I'm not pleased to wait! Ten minutes later, "Lydia Harris," they summoned, handing me a pin-stripped gown (one size fits all but flatters none). I changed clothes and was seated in another waiting room.

After the ultrasound, I was directed to a third waiting room to wait until my doctor could examine me. One and a half hours later, I finally headed home. Most of that time was spent waiting.

Life is full of "Please waits." I waited for my children to be born, which led to countless hours of waiting during piano and swim lessons, soccer and gymnastic practices. I waited for my children to grow up; now they're grown and I wait for their visits.

Sometimes we wait for an important letter, event, visitor, job, vacation, or improved health. Often I focus only on my circumstances and hurry through them, not "waiting patiently for the Lord." Forgetting the spiritual, I focus on the temporal (job, vacation, letter, health). In my impatience to get beyond the situation, I exclude God—missing the peace, rest, comfort, and healing He gives when I "wait patiently" for Him.

God waits patiently for me. He longs to speak to me through Scripture and prayer. He will incline his ear and hear my cry in every waiting room of life, even waiting for a job. The choice is mine--I can wait alone or in His presence.

Respond: Dear God, forgive me when I am impatient, discontent, or exclude you. Thank you for always being available to hear my cry. Remind me to come to You with every concern. In Jesus' name. Amen.