Watch Your Wait... (Notes)

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Who Loves Waiting?

Waiting:

Tries our patience

Feels like a waste of time

Try and take matters in our own hands

Bring out the "less than best" version of ourselves

Waiting is the Last Thing we want to be doing...

In the midst of all of the <u>stuff of life</u>, perhaps you've found yourself <u>waiting</u> **> How's that <u>waiting</u> going for you?**

James 1:2-4

My friends, be glad, even if you have a lot of trouble. You know that you learn to endure by having your faith tested. But you must learn to endure everything, so that you will be completely mature and not lacking in anything.

MAIN POINT

Waiting Matters

- We don't have to Endure Waiting
- We can actually get Stronger while we Wait...

So, Pay Attention to <u>HOW</u> you Wait.

The title of my talk: Watch Your Wait (w-a-i-t)

My COVID-19 Story

A Great example in the Bible of a man who received a Promise from the Lord & had to wait: **Abraham**.

Genesis 12:1-4 (CEV)

The Lord said to Abram: Leave your country, your family, and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you. I will bless you and make your descendants into a great nation. You will become famous and be a blessing to others... Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you. Abram was seventy-five years old when the Lord told him to leave the city of Haran. He obeyed and left with his wife Sarai...

Genesis 15:1-2,4-6

Later the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision, "Abram, don't be afraid! I will protect you and reward you greatly." But Abram answered, "Lord All-Powerful, you have given me everything I could ask for, except children..." Then the Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look at the sky and see if you can count the stars. That's how many descendants you will have." Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord was pleased with him.

Genesis 17:1-2

Abram was ninety-nine years old when the Lord appeared to him again and said, "I am God All-Powerful. If you obey me and always do right, I will keep my solemn promise to you and give you more descendants than can be counted."

Genesis 21:1-3

The Lord was good to Sarah and kept his promise. Although Abraham was very old, Sarah had a son exactly at the time God had said. Abraham named his son Isaac,

Abraham was asked by God to leave his home & settle in a new land...

- His obedience to God came with a **Promise**

A Few Things we can **NOTE** from Abraham & Sarah's story.

- They didn't always respond perfectly
- They tried to take matters in their own hands
- Took God at His Word

<u>Today</u>, Abraham is known as the "<u>Father of Faith</u>".

How can we more effectively - Watch Our Wait?

While We're Waiting

1. Watch Who & What has Voice in Our Life

- Guard the input into your life
- Selectively find encouragement from others

2. Hold On To His Word

1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<u>A Word from the Lord</u> brings peace, comfort, hope, & encouragement

3. Gratitude will Carry our Attitude

Thankfulness is a great antidote for fear and doubt...

4. Trust Who He Is...

Hebrews 13:5-6

For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper: I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

God's Faithfulness says He has, He is, and He will continue to help us.

> It means that:

- He is <u>WHO</u> He says He is
 & He'll do <u>WHAT</u> He says He'll do...
- We can TRUST HIM to be at work in us as He's bringing about the answer.
- While we wait we <u>Can</u> get STRONGER