



Waiting is built into the DNA of the gospel. Plug in “wait, salvation” in a BibleGateway search bar and you’ll receive a ready-made devotional. In fact, we’ll do it for you [here!](#)

You might even say that the act of waiting is a spiritual discipline. Think about it: Israel had to wait on the cloud/pillar of fire to move before they moved; Saul was instructed to wait, without a reason, for Samuel to arrive before moving forward with his anointing; Isaiah tells us we are strengthened if we wait on the Lord; Jesus instructed His disciples to wait on the arrival of Holy Spirit before they do anything. The traditions of church history have fashioned waiting into a season—Advent, a season of waiting on the celebration of Jesus’ first coming while waiting on Jesus’ second coming.

In 1 Thessalonians 4 and 5 the apostle Paul gave great detail about Jesus’ second coming. But he closes each section with an exhortation to encourage each other because of this information about Jesus’ return and to encourage each other with this specific information. The object of our waiting, Jesus’ return, is to impact our interaction with each other as well as our spiritual outlook. But does it?

## DIGGING IN

As you read the passages below, use the questions in the table as prompts to engage in the passage. Quick notes: not every prompt will apply to each passage; different versions may use different words for “wait.”

PASSAGE	What is being waited for? What’s the payoff for waiting?	What is occurring during the waiting?	What does this teach you about waiting?
<a href="#">Psalm 130:5-6</a>			
<a href="#">Luke 2:25-35</a>			
<a href="#">John 3:27-30</a>			
<a href="#">Acts 1:1-4</a>			
<a href="#">Romans 8:18-25</a>			
<a href="#">2 Peter 3:8-15</a>			
<a href="#">Jude 1:20-21</a>			

## PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

Roll your observations and epiphanies from the passages above into a prayer of commitment. Write out a prayer that reflects how on Jesus’ return (and the waiting God asks of us as followers of Christ) will impact the waiting you do on a day-to-day basis: the anxious waiting of test results, the frustrated waiting on traffic to clear, the hopeful waiting for an upcoming vacation. Then go out on a limb and share your prayer with a friend, or go out on a big limb and share on social media!