

Don't Waste the Waiting

August 1 & 2, 2026

STORIES
of
STRUGGLE

Remember:

I must understand that delays, detours, disappointments, or seasons of waiting are not evidence that God has abandoned me. They are often proof that God is _____ me.

Five Ways God Prepares Me in the Waiting

1 God gives me a _____ (The Prophecy)

Genesis 37:5-11 (NLT)

One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. "Listen to this dream," he said. "We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!" His brothers responded, "So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them. Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. "Listen, I have had another dream," he said. "The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!" This time he told the dream to his father as well as to his brothers, but his father scolded him. "What kind of dream is that?" he asked. "Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?" But while his brothers were jealous of Joseph, his father wondered what the dreams meant.

Remember:

I must _____ to God's promise, even when I don't understand His process.

Habakkuk 2:3 (NLT)

This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.

Two Facts About God's Promises:

- God often shows us the destination before He reveals the _____.
- God's promise does not mean immediate _____.

Remember:

Don't let _____ cause you to doubt God's promise.

2

God is developing my _____ (The Pit)

Genesis 37:23-24 (NLT)

So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

Lamentations 3:27-29 (NLT)

And it is good for people to submit at an early age to the yoke of his discipline: Let them sit alone in silence beneath the LORD's demands. Let them lie face down in the dust, for there may be hope at last.

Remember: Pits are never punishment, only preparation. God often removes _____ in hidden places before He raises my _____ in public places.

Genesis 42:20b (NLT)

"We saw his anguish when he pleaded for his life, but we wouldn't listen. That's why we're in this trouble."

3

God is building my _____ (Potiphar's House)

Genesis 39:1-6 (NLT)

When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. Potiphar noticed this and realized that the LORD was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the LORD began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished. So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat!

Zechariah 4:10 (NLT)

"Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand." (The seven lamps represent the eyes of the LORD that search all around the world.)

Remember:

**Endurance is built by _____ of character,
not one single act of good.**

Five Enduring Character Traits:

- _____ – Doing the same thing without quitting.
- _____ – Guiding and serving others by going first.
- _____ – Faithfully managing what has been given.
- _____ – Doing my very best in everything.
- _____ – Being the same person in every situation; honest and trustworthy.

Remember:

Most people want the promotion without the preparation.

But God watches how we handle small assignments before He gives larger _____.

4

God is teaching me to have full _____
on Him (The Prison)

Genesis 39:20-23 (NLT)

So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. But the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the LORD made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The LORD was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.

Question:

Will I trust God's _____ no matter how difficult it may become?

Psalms 105:17-19 (NLT)

Then he sent someone to Egypt ahead of them—Joseph, who was sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar. Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the LORD tested Joseph's character.

Remember:

Sometimes God will isolate me so He can make me _____.

Prisons (Hard Times) Develop:

- _____
- Emotional maturity
- _____ dependence on God

Remember:

Growth in the soul often happens in _____.

5 God _____ His ultimate plan and purpose (Pharaoh's Right Hand)

Genesis 41:39-44 (NLT)

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours." Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his hand and placed it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in fine linen clothing and hung a gold chain around his neck. Then he had Joseph ride in the chariot reserved for his second-in-command. And wherever Joseph went, the command was shouted, "Kneel down!" So Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt. And Pharaoh said to him, "I am Pharaoh, but no one will lift a hand or foot in the entire land of Egypt without your approval."

Question:

Will I choose to believe God will use _____ season for good?

Psalms 138:8 (TPT)

You keep every promise you've ever made to me! Since your love for me is constant and endless, I ask you, Lord, to finish every good thing that you've begun in me!

Remember:

Without the pit, Potiphar's house, and the prison, Joseph would not have been ready for the _____.

Genesis 50:20 (NLT)

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people."

Remember:

My painful story may one day become part of someone else's _____ story.

Matthew 20:28 (NIV)

"...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Don't Waste the Waiting

August 1 & 2, 2026

STORIES
of
STRUGGLE

Remember:

I must understand that delays, detours, disappointments, or seasons of waiting are not evidence that God has abandoned me. They are often proof that God is p r e p a r i n g me.

Five Ways God Prepares Me in the Waiting

1 God gives me a p r o m i s e (The Prophecy)

Genesis 37:5-11 (NLT)

One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. "Listen to this dream," he said. "We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!" His brothers responded, "So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them. Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. "Listen, I have had another dream," he said. "The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!" This time he told the dream to his father as well as to his brothers, but his father scolded him. "What kind of dream is that?" he asked. "Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?" But while his brothers were jealous of Joseph, his father wondered what the dreams meant.

Remember:

I must h o l d o n to God's promise, even when I don't understand His process.

Habakkuk 2:3 (NLT)

This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.

Two Facts About God's Promises:

- God often shows us the destination before He reveals the p r o c e s s.
- God's promise does not mean immediate f u l f i l l m e n t.

Remember:

Don't let d e l a y cause you to doubt God's promise.

2

God is developing my c h a r a c t e r (The Pit)

Genesis 37:23-24 (NLT)

So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

Lamentations 3:27-29 (NLT)

And it is good for people to submit at an early age to the yoke of his discipline: Let them sit alone in silence beneath the LORD's demands. Let them lie face down in the dust, for there may be hope at last.

Remember: Pits are never punishment, only preparation. God often removes p r i d e in hidden places before He raises my i n f l u e n c e in public places.

Genesis 42:20b (NLT)

"We saw his anguish when he pleaded for his life, but we wouldn't listen. That's why we're in this trouble."

3

God is building my e n d u r a n c e (Potiphar's House)

Genesis 39:1-6 (NLT)

When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. Potiphar noticed this and realized that the LORD was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the LORD began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished. So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat!

Zechariah 4:10 (NLT)

"Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand." (The seven lamps represent the eyes of the LORD that search all around the world.)

Remember:

Endurance is built by c o n s i s t e n c y of character, not one single act of good.

Five Enduring Character Traits:

- **D i s c i p l i n e** – Doing the same thing without quitting.
- **L e a d e r s h i p** – Guiding and serving others by going first.
- **S t e w a r d s h i p** – Faithfully managing what has been given.
- **E x c e l l e n c e** – Doing my very best in everything.
- **I n t e g r i t y** – Being the same person in every situation; honest and trustworthy.

Remember:

Most people want the promotion without the preparation.

But God watches how we handle small assignments before

He gives larger **i n f l u e n c e**.

4

God is teaching me to have full **d e p e n d e n c e** on Him (The Prison)

Genesis 39:20-23 (NLT)

So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. But the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the LORD made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The LORD was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.

Question:

Will I trust God's **p r o c e s s** no matter how difficult it may become?

Psalms 105:17-19 (NLT)

Then he sent someone to Egypt ahead of them—Joseph, who was sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar. Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the LORD tested Joseph's character.

Remember:

Sometimes God will isolate me so He can make

me **s t r o n g e r**.

Prisons (Hard Times) Develop:

- P a t i e n c e
- Emotional maturity
- D e e p e r dependence on God

Remember:

Growth in the soul often happens in s i l e n c e .

5 God r e v e a l s His ultimate plan and purpose (Pharaoh's Right Hand)

Genesis 41:39-44 (NLT)

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours." Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his hand and placed it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in fine linen clothing and hung a gold chain around his neck. Then he had Joseph ride in the chariot reserved for his second-in-command. And wherever Joseph went, the command was shouted, "Kneel down!" So Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt. And Pharaoh said to him, "I am Pharaoh, but no one will lift a hand or foot in the entire land of Egypt without your approval."

Question:

Will I choose to believe God will use e v e r y season for good?

Psalms 138:8 (TPT)

You keep every promise you've ever made to me! Since your love for me is constant and endless, I ask you, Lord, to finish every good thing that you've begun in me!

Remember:

Without the pit, Potiphar's house, and the prison, Joseph would not have been ready for the p a l a c e .

Genesis 50:20 (NLT)

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people."

Remember:

My painful story may one day become part of someone else's r e s c u e story.

Matthew 20:28 (NIV)

"...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."