

# Introduction

---

Too many people go through life waiting for things to happen instead of making them happen!<sup>1</sup>

—Sasha Azevedo

## While I Wait

While I Wait...

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise  
shall continually be in my mouth

I will praise God morning, noon, and night

I will serve God with fervor

I will love God with all of my heart

I will not complain, no matter how long it is

I will remember God's promises for my life

I will expect the promises and blessings

I will prepare thoroughly for the blessings

I will work on my shortcomings

I will write down the vision and make it plain

I will encourage others because it is never  
about me

I will testify and witness to others on how  
God is keeping me

I will forgive others, my past, and myself

I will study to show myself approved

I will seek God about my purpose  
I will fast, pray, and meditate on my change  
I will be quiet and listen for his still small voice  
I will renew my mind on God's plan for my life  
I will keep busy doing God's work  
I will fall in love with Jesus  
I will accept God as my father, mother,  
    friend, confidante, healer, and provider  
I will seek ye first the kingdom of God  
I will wait and be still

Above are action verbs. It is up to you to make your destiny happen!

Waiting is the period where we are right before we are on our way somewhere to something. We are on our way somewhere on this journey of life to our purpose. That is our final destination. We are uniquely created to do something that is tailor-made for us. This fact makes waiting the natural process of preparation to our true calling. We are not going to leave this earth until we have done what we were created to do. Sometimes God will have us go through the process of preparation because he knows we cannot handle the whole picture at one time. He has to give it to us piece-by-piece and situation-by-situation until the puzzle is complete. It is up to us to stand still and be quiet to hear his voice so that we will know when and how to move to the next step of the process. Personally, he might tell you something instantly, the next month, or even the next year. As you grow closer to him, you will know his

voice. He might tell you through a song, a sermon, prayer, his audible voice, the voice of someone else, a prophetic word, a flower, etc.

But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

John 10:2–5

Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

Proverbs 8:33–34

Dr. Ray Self, former facilitator for Jacksonville Theological Seminary and founder of the School of the Prophets and International School of Ministry in Olive Branch, Mississippi, said, “God is always talking. He is like broadcast radio. You just have to tune into the channel.” It is just that simple! Take time every day to see what direction God wants you to take for your decisions and life. If you really look at everyday situations, waiting is the primary message of our existence. We wait in rush-hour traffic, at

concerts, grocery stores, banks, post offices, theme parks, airports, Wal-Marts, etc. Personally, we might wait for a job condition to change for the better; the news of a job application; our health or a loved one's health to improve; to lose pounds from a diet; Mr. or Mrs. Right to appear in our life; a spouse of a loved one to become more interested in spiritual things; or to get delivered from an addiction. We wait for everything and everywhere. For instance, a bus might make many stops, transfers, detours, or go through construction, but it finally reaches its final destination. The interruptions may be a blessing in disguise for they could have stopped the passengers from being in a terrible wreck or from being in standstill traffic. Ultimately, it gives passengers on board a chance to reach their designation on time. Other examples of normal waiting experiences that have blessings at the end of the period are:

<b><i>Situation</i></b>	<b><i>Waiting</i></b>	<b><i>Outcome</i></b>	<b><i>Blessing</i></b>
Airport	Check-in/ luggage/ gate	Airplane	Safe/ accurate boarding
Airplane/ Layover	Take off/ holding pattern/sky	Land in desired city	Clear of other planes/ weather
Train	Stops through many towns	Desired town	Chance to see other towns
Railroad tracks	Cars stopped by train	The other side	Teaches us to leave earlier
Intersection	Cars stopped by red light	Cars go on green light	Teaches us to wait our turn
Doctor's office	Waiting room	See doctor	Time to pray/trust God
Pregnancy	Nine months of development	Delivery	Able to prepare for new life

***Question:*** What are you doing while you are waiting during these normal experiences? Are you taking time to pray and talk to God, read the Word, minister to someone in the

line about Jesus, looking at new areas to improve self, etc.?

*Answer:* Most of us would listen to our favorite song on the radio or iPod, read a magazine, conduct unimportant small talk with someone, complain about waiting, or leave the site for a shortcut.

Remember, there is always a blessing after a waiting period!

Unfortunately, everyone does not understand how to wait. Some of them have not accepted and recognized their destiny or have the patience to go through the trials and tribulations to receive their blessings. They do not know that there is a privilege to wait and if they hold on they will definitely be on their way to something big. True waiters are always on God's mind because his whole biblical principle is based on faith—waiting on something that is not seen. God usually answers yes, no, or wait to our prayers. If you are waiting, then he has promised you something great, and you are on his delayed list of blessings. You know that he did not say no. He said yes, but you have to wait for it. Meanwhile, you are going through the process of development for the promise. You are going to have to weed out friends, people in your life, places you normally go, and desires that hold you back and pray out generational curses that might be holding up your blessings. Remember, delayed blessings are not denied blessings.

I have had to constantly remind myself of that all of my life. I truly have a ministry of waiting. Not because I

wanted one, but because I have always been in extreme situations that were either allowed by God, my own doing, or by other people. If I were waiting on God, it was because he was chiseling out the rough edges to make me a smooth vessel for him. An example would be waiting on my mate. God had his own time and reason for preparing me physically, mentally and spiritually for this solicited prayer. It took over seventeen years for God to answer that prayer. This often led to his silence and my endless frustrations of allowing the wrong people in my life. If I were waiting because of my own doing, it was probably something I had to reap because of what I had sown such as sometimes being disobedient and talking back to my mother when growing up. This led to long-term disappointments and heartaches that continued into my adult life even though I had repented. It was the process of reaping and sowing! Then I would complain and speak negative things over my life which delayed my blessings even longer. If I were waiting because of someone else, it was because they were jealous and trying to hold up my blessings with manipulations. I would sometimes tell a trusted friend about a business idea or about someone I admired. They would then either steal the idea or start a similar business. Or they would start liking the same person I admired while gossiping or starting confusion. I did not use my discernment to stay clear of people with that deceitful nature.

The above examples were some situations in my life that had extensive waiting periods. Some other situations ranged from waiting on ministries and dreams to develop

to healing from wounds of unemployment, and physical and childhood setbacks. Some of those times were rough, and some were exciting and eventful. The rough times were called *mountains*. With each mountain, I learned valuable lessons. Even though the waiting periods seemed hard and long, I knew that they were temporal and would eventually end. God always showed me that he was in the midst of them and would bring me through. He also showed me that my waiting periods were never about me; they were about helping other people and being a positive example. Sometimes trials and tribulations are for people to see how you are going to react in a situation. People are always watching you, especially if you are trying to live right. You do not have to always preach and witness to people verbally. Your life is a witness!

When I was growing up, I was obsessed with becoming a child star or entertainer. I knew then that was a part of my purpose, talent, and destiny. I could sing, dance, act, write, and choreograph at a young age. I could naturally catch on to anything and really imitate my voice like some celebrities. It was like I had photographic memory. I started choreographing professionally at the age of fourteen and traveled extensively nationally and internationally. I was in every project, play, or activity, including band, flag girl, dance, choir, cheerleading, drama, gymnastics, etc. I won top awards in music, was featured in movies, MTV videos, and commercials, and even won a “Best Choreography” award in Nice, France, during my twelfth-grade year. I thought this was what I was supposed to do. I did not see it any other way.

My mother was a world-renowned choral director, adjudicator, workshop clinician, and the Walt Disney “Most Outstanding Teacher of the Country.” She also won a “Premier Player” award from the local chapter of the National and Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) after her death. I had inherited my talent from her, but she never seemed to support me. She did not want me to major in the arts in college because she wanted me to fall back on something that paid more money. I could not believe those words because she was the diva of the arts. One day, I asked her why she seemed to be against my dreams. She said something to me that was so profound that I will never forget. She said that she did not believe in my dreams because I was not showing in my lifestyle that I really wanted to be an entertainer. She agreed that I lived, ate, slept, and breathed show business, but I was not prepared. She said, “If you are a dancer and choreographer, you should have dances choreographed for yourself and not wait until the last minute to prepare one when someone asks you and have costumes already purchased in popular colors when you have a little extra money.” She also said that if I were a singer and actress, I should have demo and accompaniment tapes so I would not have to depend on a musician, and I would have monologues purchased and memorized.

The list went on. My life changed abruptly after those statements. Since then, I have always been in a preparing state and have applied this scripture to every area of my life.

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.

Matthew 24:44

I try to be ready when opportunities come out of the clear blue sky. Sometimes opportunities only come once so be ready for them.

In preparing for my opportunities, I found God and accepted salvation. When I started to see the big picture, I realized that entertainment was only a small picture of my purpose and that God wanted me to use my gifts to glorify him. I immediately stopped performing secularly and started ministering in the Christian arena. Liturgical dance was not as popular back then, but I trusted God. Because I was obedient, he opened up constant doors in worship and arts. It was prophesied in my early twenties that I would not be big in entertainment or ministry until later thirties to mid-forties. That is a long time to wait and prepare for a childhood dream to come to pass. In the meantime, I accepted my calling into preaching, evangelism, prophetic and healing ministries, dance ministry, worship and arts, writing, teaching, motivational speaking, mentoring, counseling, intercessory prayer, and entrepreneurship. I thought it was only one area that was my purpose. All of these things led to my overall purpose. God will take all of your talents and tie them into the bigger picture of your purpose as long as you dedicate your gifts to him. You can have it all too as you realize your potential while you wait.

God told me to write this book in 1994. While I was waiting to write this book, I have been through a layoff; a new job transition; injuries; vocal cord damage; anxiety attacks; pursuing higher education and certifications; magazine article submissions; book publishing of first book; performances; ordination; taking Spanish classes; event planning; and my mother's death. All of these might have seemed like distractions but were necessary to show what it took to develop myself while I was waiting on the promised blessings. All of the testimonies I got from these experiences helped to enhance this book. They took a long time before the end results came into fruition. Remember, these are my testimonial experiences and how God related to me. Your experiences and how God relates to you personally will be different depending on your spiritual level.

This book will minister to you about not focusing on how long you are waiting but on what you should do to prepare for the outcome. It will define waiting; how God sees it; explain the process and why; give testimonial examples of waiting; renew your mind with solutions; and how to receive your blessings. Enjoy the book and explore *your* waiting journey.