

Waiting in Stillness

By Bob Young

Be still and know that I am God.... - Psalm 46:10

Waiting. Waiting is difficult. The doctor's office...the new baby...the wedding day...the terminal patient. There are times and places in our walk with God when he puts us in a place of waiting. We have no choice but to wait. Waiting often means we have little else to do. We become fidgety. We cannot be still. The Psalmist says we are to wait in stillness, and know that God is God. According to Acts 1, the early disciples were waiting during the ten days from the Ascension to Pentecost. The Bible says they waited in devoted prayer.

In times of waiting, past experiences provide little orientation. Having to wait can disturb even the most faithful if we do not understand that God brings us such experiences only for a season. When I have to wait, it often seems as though the rest of life is cut off--nothing to do, no new opportunities, just inactivity.

Over the years, I have learned that during such times, God is slowing us down to fashion something new in us. It is almost as though we are in an isolation chamber designed to call us to deeper roots of prayer and faith. It is not a comfortable place, especially for a task-driven disciple. My nature cries out, "I must do something." God is saying, "Be still and know that I am God." You know you have been brought to a time of waiting when you cannot seem to change the things that most need to change—unemployment, illness, crisis, delays.

Most religious people live well-planned lives and know almost everything that will happen. God's deeper work within us often upsets the familiar routines and the well-planned activities. The time of quietness can seem almost eerie. What is God doing? Only the future will make clear what God is doing. What we can know in the present is that He is at work.

Has God ever brought you to a place of being still? Do not fight it. Be still and know that He really is God.