

Waiting Women

JADE LEE

Copyright © 2015 Jade Lee

All rights reserved.

ISBN:
ISBN-13:

DEDICATION

To the Late Apostle Harry Das. My Hero. The Most Patient Person I have ever met. May all of the promises you waited for be fulfilled through the lives of your spiritual sons and daughters.

CONTENTS

	Acknowledgments	i
1	In the Beginning We Believed	3
2	Sarah: A Mother of Nations	
3	Rebekah, Leah and Rachel	
4	Hannah: A Desperate Intercessor	
5	Manoah's Wife: Samson's Mother	
6	Elizabeth: Mother of John the Baptist	
7	The Modern Bride: As We Wait	

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am especially thankful to my LORD and Savior Jesus Christ for providing me the opportunity to experience the Waiting Woman Process. I can now identify to His wait and the wait of many women before me, experiencing the glory of answered prayer. He is not a man that He should lie and He is always worth the wait.

1 IN THE BEGINNING WE BELIEVED

“And GOD blessed them, and GOD said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” Genesis 1:28¹

“Never doubt in the dark what GOD told you in the light.”

V. Raymond Edman

“...but in the beginning it was not so.” The Pharisees coming to tempt him were now all at a loss for words. Jesus made it clear that GOD’s intention before sin came into the world still remains today. He wants us to have a life full of joy, peace and His presence. His emphasis on In the Beginning is key to us understanding how to live a life after victory after the resurrection of Christ. Before sin our bodies were perfect, there was no sickness, our relationships were in a state of perfect unity. After sin, our bodies went awry, death occurred and disunity entered our relationships.

The good news is that the work of the cross has redeemed us (purchased back our rights) from eternal death and the effects of sin. We can now say to ourselves, “In the beginning it was not so” and believe GOD that we can go back to GOD’s original intention “in the beginning.” In Galatians 3:13, the Scripture reveals to us that ‘Christ has redeemed us

¹ NKJV

from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us'². We can now all receive the freedom of being freed from the fallout of sin as we apply the work of the cross to our daily lives. This process causes all things to be made new including changing our sin nature through a process entitled sanctification; we are now set apart to become mature sons of GOD.

We can also know that GOD will use the imperfections of this world for His glory and for our good. A clear example of this is given to us in John 9:1-3. In this account Jesus heals a blind man and the 'why' question begins to stir in the heart of the disciples. "Why was he born blind?" Jesus' answer strikes our hearts with revelation as we encounter this same 'why' question in facing the difficulties of life: Why do bad things happen to good people. Why is there sin, sickness, disease, natural disasters and other atrocities in this world, if GOD is good? Why is GOD allowing so much evil in the world? Jesus provides some insight into one of the reasons for difficulty in His answer to the disciples, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of GOD might be displayed in him."³

When we are encountering a long waiting period for an answer to prayer the beginning of the journey is oftentimes full of faith. We realize that we are being used by GOD. We read biographies of the trials every man of GOD must go through to reach their full potential. We read Biblical accounts of the great heroes of faith and we want to accomplish the same feats. We are pumped full of encouragement and hope in GOD's great plan for our lives. We embrace the difficulty wondering why these heroines had moments of weakness.

Perhaps we even judge them too harshly- why would Moses strike the rock, David sleep with Bathsheba, Sarah laugh at the promise of GOD or Samson fall for Delilah. These moments seem to be obviously wrong. But as we wait, our own journey proves the difficulty of continuing to believe in the once clearly stated voice. We begin to doubt in darkness what we heard in the light. *Was that really the voice of GOD? Maybe it was just my mind. Or maybe I am facing this difficulty due to a sinful moment, like Michal went through when she hated King David for*

² KJV 2000 Bible

³ John 9:3, ESV

dancing before GOD. We wonder if our difficulty is due to sin although GOD has already told us we would have to face this trial.

The wait can begin to torment our once filled minds of faith to the point of absolute discouragement, worry and mental fatigue. We fight to hold onto Scriptures, read our Bibles or even pray as we wonder about the same potential realities the disciples asked Jesus. We read the Bible looking for answers yet we only find more puzzles. Why did the great ones take so long to become men and women of GOD? Why were their processes so difficult? Why was there so much persecution and shame in the testing?

As we delve into the waters of the Bible, we are soon to see many faces full of desperate, heart wrenching moments of utter defeat, trying to hold onto that covenantal moment when they once heard the voice of GOD. Maybe it was 15, 70 or 80 years of waiting before they saw the promise. Others never received the promise even upon their death. We see the moments they had to press through the process never giving up on their hope in the LORD. This encourages us as we have friends, witnesses that faithfully continued the race and now so eagerly cheer us on from Heaven's Gates.⁴

Tears run down our face as we go through our own testing, realizing how difficult it must have been to be Abraham, Moses, or Joshua. A deep appreciation begins to well up in our hearts as a fresh relatability matures our soul. We cannot deny the hidden knowledge that greatness is the enigmatic explanation for all this pain. The Scriptures shout back to our current situation, *It's only a matter of time before the world sees Why!* Our heart of hearts cannot settle for what others say, what we see in the natural and we know there is more.

Our John 9:3 Moment is about to occur, that moment when Jesus says, "The Wait is Over. You have known me in the fellowship of My suffering. You have despised the shame. You have experienced the misunderstanding and rejection tied in with the wait. But now you will know the glorious feeling of My resurrection. And your joy will be made full." At that moment, everything begins to change. And we remember the shame, the pain, the discomfort, but we have matured to seeing the beauty of the journey. We see the valuable jewels obtained in

⁴ Hebrews 12:1

the messy delay. We have known the beauty of Comfort, Revelation and Seeking GOD. Now He will receive the glory as our humbled hearts bow low for the world to wonder at how He has accomplished the miraculous through our lives.

This all sounds wonderful and fills our hearts with joy but the wait is still so difficult to the hungry soul. We must hold onto faith in the wait. We must grasp ahold of a world beyond what our eyes can see if we want to maintain hope. We must realize that we are seated in heavenly places, knowing that our current situation may not change tomorrow but we can believe against all odds. Our hearts and minds must be reset to think like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our GOD whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” (Daniel 3:16-17, ESV)

Of course the faith of these Hebrews boys made Nebuchadnezzar even angrier, as does ours, when they refused to bow their knee to another god. This is the plan of the enemy for the waiting believer. He wants us to give in to the worship of GOD, to turn our back on GOD. Remember Job’s wife when she was waiting on answers to her husband’s trials? She gave up and quit on GOD, encouraging her husband to give up as well, yet the Bible encourages us to be patient in tribulation. We must not yield to this temptation:

Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the LORD; **Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer**; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. (Romans 12:10-15, KJV, Bold Emphasis Added)

This passage provides us with a formula to how to overcome the waiting dilemma. There is a way of life prescribed for us as we wait; this will help us overcome the temptation to get in the flesh, respond with doubt, fall into complaining or under a depressed state. We can be kind to others while we are waiting. We can honor others while we wait. Both

of these attitudes take our mind off of ourselves and onto others. We are now ready to serve others; the very attitude of servanthood cancels victimization and self-pity. When we position ourselves as servants we are actually in a position of authority. We begin to see ourselves as leaders and givers, not as victims in need. The *Why Me* questions begin to fade away as we meet the needs of others.

We can also occupy the time as we wait.⁵ There is no better way to slow down time than sitting around thinking about what you are waiting for, when it is going to come and why it has not yet come. The Watching the Clock syndrome is a pitfall for complaining and discouragement. Instead, Jesus provides us with instructions to invest what He has already given us while we wait for His return. He will come because He promised that He will come; the question remains if we will be ready for the answer to our prayer when He returns.

When we feel that we are being treated unfairly, we oftentimes bury our gifts wondering why we don't have the amount of talents others have been given, but we are warned in Scripture that it is best to focus on what GOD has given us and use that to the best of our ability. While we are waiting, we should be multiplying the current currency GOD has placed in our hands. We are not idly sitting around wondering when GOD will do something for us; instead, we are doing something wonderful for GOD. This reveals an attitude of gratitude for the many gifts and resources He has placed in our hands. It will also ward off the ability to become desperately bitter due to a faulty focus.

When the blind man, who was blind since birth, was healed, Jesus was glorified and 'the works of GOD (were) displayed in him.'⁶ Others were able to see the glory of GOD because GOD interrupted the regularly scheduled program. This man was in what seemed to be a permanent state of disease, but to GOD nothing was impossible. Without a doctor, He did a miracle in this man's body. Through these types of miracles, many people believed in Jesus. When the issue of blood for twelve years was healed GOD's glory was also displayed through her body. She had been through an intense season of painful waiting. This disease was stripping her financially, she 'had spent all her living upon physicians,

⁵ Luke 19:13

⁶ Luke 9:3, ESV

neither could be healed of any' but in her desperation she touched the border of Jesus garment and immediately was healed.⁷

Both the blind man and the woman with the issue of blood experienced the pain of waiting for their healing, perhaps wondering if it would ever come or if it was at all possible. But we do know that in her desperation, this woman was able to grab ahold of Jesus with faith that she would get her breakthrough that day. Her spirit pulled healing from Jesus so much so that He said, 'Who touched me?...Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of Me.'⁸

This must have required great faith for this woman to muster up the boldness of touching Jesus. She was considered unclean according to Jewish customs, but she touched a holy man. Then she boldly declared before everyone what was wrong with her:

And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before Him, she declared unto Him before all the people for what cause she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. (John 8:47, KJV)

This could have been a very embarrassing moment for a woman in a mixed crowd, talking to a man. But she was so yielded to Jesus that she shared her good news with everyone. She was trembling, but she did it; therefore, the purpose of her infirmity was complete.

We discover that this woman's faith made her whole, she was able to give her faith in the midst of her trial. She did not give up hope and she did not allow herself to wallow in self-pity. She continued to press towards Jesus even though it looked as though all odds were against her gaining victory. Jesus, seeing her desperation, acknowledged her faith in Him and she was healed. Sometimes it takes tremendous faith for us to press into this type of healing after years of waiting. Our situation tells us that healing is not possible, but as our eyes are fixed on Jesus we know that He can do anything. With man this is impossible, but with GOD all things are possible.⁹ We learn not to care about what man, this world or our current situation says, we can overcome through the power of Jesus Christ. We walk away from years of sorrowful waiting with a

⁷ John 8:43-44, KJV

⁸ John 8:46, KJV

⁹ Matthew 19:26

heart filled with comfort and peace. In a moment, Jesus calms our mourning heart with His presence.

Then there are times when we feel that our situation is completely dead. We feel that all hope is gone; there is no way out. But again, the words of Jesus echo through our mind, **With man this is impossible, but with GOD all things are possible.**¹⁰ We refuse these doubtful thoughts, listening to our Good Shepherd's hopeful voice. In the same encounter, Jesus learned of a religious leader's daughter's death. Jesus tells the man to believe and his daughter would be 'whole.' When he arrives at her house everyone is crying, mourning over her death.

But we see the mind of Christ in our seemingly hopeless situations. He says, 'Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth.' Our death is simply a nap to Jesus. He understands our heartache, for He mourned over the death of Lazarus as well, but He also understands that the situations we feel are eternal are in actuality temporal. He is willing to be laughed at on our behalf and then He removes all of His mocking enemies from the room. In two words, this young lady rises from death to life, 'Maid, arise.'¹¹ Jesus can do the same for the situations in our lives that we feel are completely hopeless. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.¹²

Jesus walked through the earth making the wrong things right, bringing the world back to its originality – the way it was before the fall of man. Whenever Jesus arrives, He can make all things new in a moment. All throughout the book of Revelation (the Revelation of who Jesus Is) we hear these words repeated, *Behold, I make all things new.* And we receive a sense of awareness in the magnitude of His capability. We become full of faith knowing that we may be waiting for years on the same promise but in a moment everything can change. We are encouraged that He can and will do it; this if faith. He is taking the entire world through this process of glorification- where we will be used to display His glory once again.

Recently, this revelation moment came to my understanding as I pondered upon my own wait journey. There are moments that it dawns on me how long the wait has been- 10 years and two surgeries into this

¹⁰ Matthew 19:26

¹¹ Luke 8:54

¹² Hebrews 13:8

sometimes dark tunnel I have many times wondered Why. But most of the time I have been so busy doing the work of the LORD that I have almost forgotten about the wait. It has become harder the older I get and the more into the journey, but I continue to hold onto the faith in GOD's promise.

As I studied women of the Bible, much like me, the realization dawned on me that this wait could be for the glory of GOD to be revealed in me and through me. What a privilege we have in Jesus to be used in such a glorious manner. Yet it does not seem so glorious when our carnal minds begin to interrupt this Godly perspective. We must wait, stay focused on the promise and press beyond, or above the temptation to doubt. This is a great exercise of determination and establishing the mind of Christ. It is good for our souls in growing towards Christlike maturity.

This wait journey has cornered me into a place of believing GOD against all odds, wondering why this is happening, warding off the lies of the enemy of my warfare (also known as the armor of GOD) is not an option. It is absolutely essential in maintaining my sanity and my faith. I must be equipped for the lies thrown at GOD regarding my current state. It is not GOD's fault and although I do not understand this wait, I must believe that it is all for my good. I must trust the LORD that this is all a part of His Master Plan to do something prophetic and wonderful for His people.

That moment we get it is absolutely essential. It is the moment we realize that our faith is not about us alone; our trial is for the building of the remainder of the body of Christ just as much as someone else's trial has increased our faith. This causes a feeling of great purpose in the journey. The LORD has made it clear to me that I must go through this process for you – the reader, the listener, the wonderer, the seeker. Perhaps something in this book will help you overcome your own waiting trial. You will see yourself in the pain of Sarah, the mocking of Hannah or the wonder of Elizabeth. You will say to yourself, 'Surely, I can go through this testing and overcome if she could do it!'

Our stories are being written in Heaven for the next generation to see the hand of our GOD and we will not give up as we seek His face both night and day. We will trust in our GOD like Job who said, 'Though he slay

me, yet will I trust in Him'.¹³ Job was able to speak to GOD about His situation and GOD listened to Job's case. In the end, all reproach was removed from Job; he was then rewarded double for all his pain. There is a type of faith that wrestles with GOD, yet goes through the process without forsaking Him believing that He will give us what He promised. Then our story will become someone else's inspiration in believing Him as well.

My wait has been for the sons and daughters GOD has promised and it continues but in the meantime, I have been able to mother many spiritual sons and daughters. This mothering has been very unique and utterly painful as I wonder, *How can I mother someone when I do not even have my own natural children.* I have mothered women with children and helped them mother their own natural children. The whisper of GOD's voice speaks to me in the dark nights of my soul, telling me to continue because He has called me to be a mother- selflessly giving my heart in the very area of deep pain. It is a continuous sacrifice even giving this experience while yet waiting, but there is a treasure being released as others read my in between- they need to hear the words of another's in between. The essence of this journey before completion is what oftentimes ministers to our hearts the most- the understanding of another who is also in the process. This is what resounds to us as we read the Psalms of David. It states, 'We can overcome. We will make it through.'

Why would GOD make the barren woman the mother of many children who never had a mother or father. He makes her the mother to the motherless. He teaches her to mother when others say she does not have the natural experience to do so; it is all a part of His grand design, a precious mystery we will understand in time. But the key seems to be picking up the jewels as we go through the pain of saying a sometimes heartwrenching, Yes! I am Yours GOD, no matter how difficult this call is to follow you, I say, Yes! Like an olive, we are pressed and oil seeps from our lives falling down to those who need the anointing- the manifested power of GOD to overcome.

This is how mothers of the faith, like Harriet Tubman, caused others to overcome. She walked in with them, still on her own journey of pain,

¹³ Job 13:15

testifying of how she made it through thus far and this is what I pray this book will be for you- a testament of a woman and many women on a journey to overcome. Learn from the mistakes and triumphs of these women; keep your heart in a place of receptivity and embrace the journey as we all press towards eternal victory. The prize becomes our faith in Jesus, knowing that He is not a man that He would lie, and we will obtain His dream for our lives. Others will then be saved through our testimony.

Understanding Foundations

This book will take us through foundations and through the lives of these Waiting Women. They waited for the promised child for many years and GOD came through in answered prayer. Foundations are always very important to understanding the whole of the Bible; therefore, it is absolutely essential to go back to the original or first plan of GOD. Many times, in Bible study, it helps to reference the first mention of a word such as ‘worship’, ‘love’ or ‘joy’. This helps us to understand the root meaning of the word. The introduction to childbirth is provided in Genesis chapter one when GOD speaks to Adam and Eve the following instruction, “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion...” (Genesis 1:28). This isn’t too bad for an initial command- enjoy one another, make love, have children and own everything.

This is the life we all strive to obtain, but find hard to live in our current times. After the fall of man, interruptions began to occur in this original plan, beginning with pain in childbirth, the difficulty of tending a hardened ground and fratricide in the next generation of Adam and Eve. Along with these interruptions came sickness, disease, heartache, separation from GOD and every other atrocity known to our current world. It has become strikingly difficult to discover the Garden of Eden reality, yet we know it is achievable. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus, who became sin on our behalf, the consequences of sin were taken by His death. We can now obtain this Garden experience or the Joy Set Before Jesus, the Abundant Life He promised.

There is a measure of this abundance we can live in on this earth and the remainder we will experience for all of eternity. This exciting news causes our hearts to awaken in wonder of what it can look like to become a

matured son of GOD. We can now take on the attributes of Christ, we can live in the Spirit, we can lay ahold of all of His promises. One of these promises is healing from our sicknesses. The Bible declares that by the stripes of Jesus we are healed. We can believe that the same GOD who created the heavens and the earth can heal our sickness. As we wait on Him, He can turn the impossible into the possible.

This is how the men and women in the Hall of Faith lived their lives. They did not allow doubt to creep into their hearts, believing to the very end, although some did not receive their promise. They left the results in GOD's hands knowing that their faith would be accounted as righteousness and whatever was not of faith was sin.¹⁴ In their hearts, they knew GOD could and He would; they did not give up on GOD in the waiting process. If they did, they quickly repented and continued to believe that He would do what He said He would do; for many, the promise was not fulfilled the way they imagined, but it was fulfilled in the next generation(s).

The fact remains that GOD can speak to His people today and when He speaks we must believe against all odds. We must trust Him that what He says is true. This can be hard when the cares of this world begin to weigh us down or when we have prayed a prayer only to see it not turn out the way we anticipated. When these disappointments and fiery darts hit our hearts, we must continue to fill our minds with all the times we did see our prayers answered. We must know that He can do it and trust that His ways are good. Discouragement is not an option as we wait on GOD; His Word will renew our strength and we will not grow weary in well doing. Keeping His truth in our atmosphere, our mouths and our minds is key to maintaining this positioning.

Be blessed as we remember that *In the beginning* it was not so and Jesus is on a mission to bring this world, including us, back to the way it was in the beginning. He will not relent until our hearts, minds and bodies s will. If it is His desire to see our prayers come to fruition, in accordance with Scripture, then we can stand on His promises believing that it is not by power, nor by might but it is by His Spirit. Our hearts remain encouraged and our minds stay faithfully dedicated, leaving the results in His hands. Then we can refocus on staying occupied on the task at hand. We can mother the next generation focusing on the joy that is set before us; this is an eternal mindset.

¹⁴ Genesis 15:6 and Romans 14:23

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Jade Lee is an internationally known motivational speaker and entrepreneur. She is also a marathon runner, fashion designer, model, life coach, pastor's wife and school provost.

When not at her Atlanta home, Jade travels state and worldwide, speaking with different organizations at various conferences and seminars. She enjoys bringing the best out in people, encouraging both young and old to live life to its fullest. Jade also strives to meet a high standard of excellence in all of her endeavors.

With a B.A. degree in English from Hampton University, Jade is an avid writer, specializing in books on personal development and spiritual growth. She also has a tremendous heart and expertise for the African American community. This is reflected in many of her speaking engagements and books.

"It is my hope that every life I encounter will in some way be inspired, be encouraged and, most importantly, be transformed by the joy and love they see through my life and work."