The Wait

Waiting on God to Speak and Give Direction

"Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD." Psalm 27:14, NASB

Bible Besties, have you ever prayed, *"Lord, I'm ready to take the next step. I just need to know which way to go"?*

Maybe you have a decision to make, and the more you think about it, the more you want to do something just so the waiting will be over.

That's a good time to open your Bible to Psalm 27. Before David encouraged anyone else to wait, he prayed for direction himself. He asked the Lord to teach him His way and lead him on a level path (Psalm 27:11). David knew what it felt like to need an answer while trouble was still close.

Bring God an honest question

In 2 Chronicles 20, King Jehoshaphat received word that a great army was coming against Judah. Families gathered before the Lord, children included. Their king stood up in front of them and admitted that he did not know what to do. Then he spoke these words to God: **"Our eyes are on You."** (2 Chronicles 20:12, NASB 1995)

I love that he could say both things in the same prayer. He could admit his uncertainty and express his trust. If you're waiting for direction today, you can pray that honestly, too. Tell the Lord what decision is in front of you, what you're afraid of, and which outcome you've been hoping for. Ask Him to make you willing to follow even if His direction differs from what you had in mind.

Open the Scriptures while you wait

Psalm 119:105 describes God's Word as a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. Think about where a lamp casts its light when

you carry it along a dark road. You can see where to place your foot, even while the bend ahead is still out of sight.

Suppose you're praying about whether to have a difficult conversation. You may still need wisdom about the timing, but Scripture already gives you direction about how to speak. James 1:19 tells us to be quick to hear and slow to speak and to anger. Ephesians 4:29 tells us to choose words that build up the person listening. Before you know how the conversation will turn out, you can ask, *"Lord, help me listen long enough to understand. Help me choose words that will do this person good."* That is a step you can take today.

Ask for wisdom, then give yourself room to listen

James 1:5 invites believers who lack wisdom to ask God, who gives generously. Sometimes we pray for wisdom and then spend the next hour rehearsing the answer we want. Try bringing a different question to the Lord: *"Is there something in Your Word I've been slow to put into practice?"*

When a particular thought comes to mind, take time to weigh it against Scripture. Talk it through with a wise believer who will tell you the truth in love (Proverbs 15:22). If the decision can wait, give yourself room to listen before you commit. And when the faithful course is clear, ask God for the courage to follow it.

Remember who is with you in the wait

In John 11, Martha went out to meet Jesus after her brother Lazarus had died. She told Him what was on her heart. Jesus spoke to her about the resurrection and asked whether she believed Him. In verse 27, Martha confessed that He was the Christ, the Son of God. **The stone was still in place when she said she believed.** She could trust the One standing before her while she still had questions about what had happened.

Bible Besties, what is the question you keep carrying back to God?

Bring it to Him again today. Then give your attention to the person, responsibility, or act of obedience already in front of you. You can wait for direction about tomorrow and still walk with Jesus today, one faithful step at a time.

Heavenly Father, You know the decision on my heart and how much I want an answer. Quiet my hurry so I can pay attention to Your Word. Give me wisdom where the way is unclear, humility to receive wise counsel, and courage to act on what You have already shown me. When I cannot see around the bend, help me keep my eyes on Jesus and take the next faithful step. In Jesus' name, amen.

