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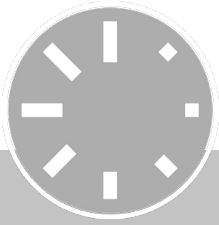
STUDY GUIDE

THE WAITING SEASON

**What to Do When God Has You
in a Holding Pattern**

By
ERICK W. HOSKIN

This Study Guide works together with the Book:
The Waiting Season: What to Do When God Has You in a Holding Pattern



ABOUT THIS GUIDE



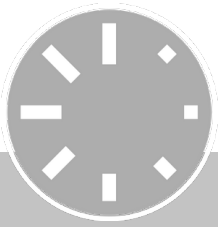
This study guide is brought to you by the Grace Center for Spiritual Development (GCSD), an extension ministry of Grace School of Theology. Our desire is to provide non-degree learning opportunities for anyone who wishes to grow in their spiritual walk.

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The Waiting Season: What to Do When God Puts You in a Holding Pattern.
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INTRODUCTION

Too often I've heard the phrase I can't wait until I reach my destiny. And we live our lives with heightened expectation of reaching this imaginary place. But the question that we really need to ask ourselves and answer is, **what is destiny?**

And so out of that interest, I began to seek out the difference between destiny and destination.

Destination Literally means the events that will happen to a person or thing in the future. Being obedient on the journey or on the destination will ultimately lead you to your destiny. This means obeying the will of God and the instructions of God which will ultimately lead you to your Godly destination.

Destiny Purpose – Noun form is the place to which someone is going or sent. The reason that you have this tugging, and this pull in your spirit that you cannot shake is because God is tugging on you, trying to send you to your destination. It is on this journey that you will reach your destiny.

The inspiration for the book and further study was literally birthed out an experience that taught me about waiting as I was preparing to minister in San Francisco CA. It was out of that experience of preparing that entire week, I learned life lessons that God used to speak to me concerning what to do when **God has you in a holding pattern.**

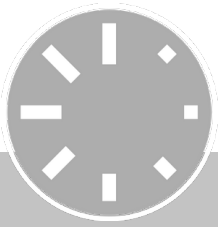
After this study, you should be able to:

- Identify and eliminate obstacles blocking your blessings
- Cut loose the relationships that are holding you back from God's plan
- Grasp the beauty of God's perfect timing
- Embrace your identity in Christ as a new creation

Prayerfully, as you begin this study, ask yourself

- What season of waiting are you?
- What does God have you to do during this season?

Let's begin this journey of discovery to find What to do when God has you in a Holding Pattern.



WAITING IS PREPARATION

Waiting is not a punishment but rather preparation. Waiting is a season every Christian will experience. However, you need to understand that your waiting season is not your wasted season. God does His best work in our waiting season to prepare us for our destiny.

God is the Alpha and the Omega and He already knows your beginning from your ending, you can trust that He is preparing you for your future as well as choreographing your future for you. He is also working on the hearts of people He will use to bless you along the journey.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your path straight.*

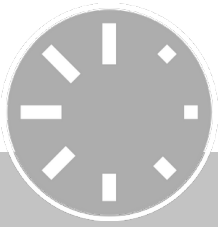
Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

Now that you know that you have a destination for your life, you must ask yourself, are you prepared for where God is sending you?

Your delay is God's ordained season of pause to develop your capacity to handle what He has in store for you. He will stretch your faith to the point where you'll solely depend on Him.

In the faith stretching process, God will force you to rid of any unwanted baggage that you convinced yourself that you need. He knows that if you carry unwanted baggage, you will compromise His greater purpose.

Are you ready for the journey?



YOU CAN'T STAY HERE

Abram is a perfect example of someone that had to wait. A close look at the call of Abram in Genesis 11 and 12 sheds light on this.

What major decision did Abram make? He received a powerful message from God.

*The LORD had said to Abram,
"Go from your country, your people, and your father's household
to the land that I will show you."
Genesis 12:1 NIV*

God even made Abram a promise based on his obedience. Do you recognize that your blessing lives on the other side of your obedience?

*"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."
Genesis 12:2-3 NIV*

Abram had to be aware of the dangers and the uncertainties that lie ahead. Yet He still chose to go. We must abandon the spirit of contemplation. We have to have enough faith in God to take Him at His word. (Hebrews 6:18) Enough faith in our not yet/becoming season.

The crushing that you are enduring in your season of becoming is a necessary part of God's plan for where you are going. But you must trust the process.

Between Genesis 12 and Genesis 17, we see that Abram has:

- a calling season
- a testing season
- an obedience season

But after Abram endured, he became Abraham. He journeyed from Abram (Exalted Father) to Abraham (Father of Nations)

Trusting God is vital to the journey. What is blocking our blessings?

Let's look at a few roadblocks to our blessings:

- We want promotion without the pressure.
- We want perfection without the process.
- We want one step from the starting line to the finish line.
- We want to know the end of the story.
- We aren't willing to depart from the comfy confines of our human-made reality and take a leap of faith into the unknown of the divine.
- We think that life is a race to acquire things, rather than a journey into the divine destination.

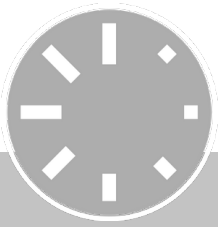
Full obedience in our season of becoming is a journey of faith and blessings.

Study and Reflect on the Questions at the end of the chapter in the book.

What's holding you back?

Go Deeper in Study

Read Genesis Chapter 12 to learn more about Abram's journey.



RELEASING THOSE PEOPLE GOD HAS RELEASED

Carrying too much weight can make us spend far more energy, money and mental concern than we should. We often hold on to additional bags because we cannot part with what we think we need. Have you been on that journey with too much baggage?

God shared with Abram three difficult things that he would have to do to get to the next level. These things brought about his blessings.

He has to **LEAVE**:

- his country
- his family
- his father's house

*The LORD had said to Abram,
"Go from your **country**, your **people**, and your **father's household**
to the land that I will show you."
Genesis 12:1 NIV emphasis added*

You must shed baggage to go where God is sending you. God has a divine destiny for you and a specific destination for you to take. How and when you get there depends on your faith and your obedience to His will for your life.

God will allow you to sit in a divine holding pattern orchestrated to force you to shed some weight while you wait. A lot of stress you are dealing with is a result of trying to resolve conflicts with baggage you should never have brought with you on the journey.

You cannot focus on your becoming season when your distraction is causing you to postpone your arrival to your destiny.

You must access your relationships to begin shedding some of the baggage that's keeping you from your destiny. Ask yourself these three questions:

- Does that person add value to your life?
- Are you the one giving?
- Is the mess in someone else's life causing you stress?

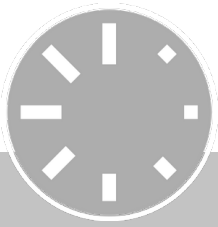
Your destiny is at stake if you are spending too much time resolving issues that have nothing to do with you. Satan wants to keep you distracted by things that you cannot control. He wants you to stay focused on the wrong things that keeps you from fulfilling God's purpose for your life. Sometimes, you have to set free your "distractors" into their destiny so that you can be free to walk into yours.

Study and Reflect on the Questions at the end of the chapter in the book.

Who is God asking you to release in your waiting season?

Go Deeper in Study

Read 1 Samuel 15 how did Samuel deal with King Saul.



YOUR BLESSING IS ON SCHEDULE

Often, even as Christians, we don't really know what life will bring us. In the 1994 box office hit *Forrest Gump*, the highly acclaimed actor Tom Hanks gave us this famous line: "My momma always said, 'life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get.'"^[1] Yet, God does not intend for His people to be helpless or hopeless. He desires that we trust that He has a plan for our lives even when we cannot see how it will play out.

Hannah's Blessing

Hannah is a great example of how God gives hope in hopeless situations.

Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb."

1 Samuel 1:3-5 NIV

Even though God was responsible for the delay in Hannah's blessings, He still showed her that He loved her and provided for her until the appointed time of her blessing.

Spiritual Growth

Spiritual growth and maturity comes through our waiting season. 1 Samuel 1 shows God's continuous love for Hannah. It also shows us that the things we have been praying to God for is not late and that God has not forgotten us.

We are encouraged to be led by the Holy Spirit and to have courage in our waiting, according to Charles H. Spurgeon.^[2] Remember the Psalmist wrote:

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart...

Psalm 27:14 NKJV

^[1] Zemeckis, Robert. *Forrest Gump*. Paramount Pictures. 1994

^[2] Spurgeon, Charles Haddon. "Brave Waiting." August 26, 1877. In *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit* (vol 23). In *The Spurgeon Center for Biblical Preaching at Midwestern Seminary*.

<https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/brave-waiting#flipbook/>.

Growth comes from having faith that God will deliver in His timing. While we are waiting, we need to rely on God and stay connected to Him through prayer.

*You do not have **because you do not ask God.**
When you ask, you do not receive,
because you ask with wrong motives,
that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.
James 4:2-3 emphasis added*

Persistent prayer has the power to cause God to lean in your direction at His appointed time. However, *effective prayer* requires being in tune with God's will and putting His desires first. For this perspective, you need *spiritual growth*.

A Broken Masterpiece

Broken crayons still color. Sometimes you will go through seasons when you feel that you are too broken for God to use, but if you focus on your faith and remember:

*God causes everything to work together for the good
of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.
Romans 8:28 NLT*

God will prove to you that broken crayons can still make color and create masterpieces. Hannah, like you, felt broken, but must remain true to the calling on your life to prayer and have faith.

Determination in Season

Hannah demonstrated great determination with a spirit of purpose despite her circumstances. She remained faithful even in her prayer life during her season of waiting. We must be determined in our season of waiting not trying to figure God out but trust Him through prayer and determination to do His will.

Are all of your wants bad?

Sometimes – a lot of times – we are like preschoolers who want a snack that we think looks good and satisfying, and we want it right away. But God, our Teacher, knows what's best for us. He knows exactly what we need, which is better than what our limited vision asks for. We need to trust God's timing and His choice.

Hannah's want was not bad, it just had to come in God's timing. It was not wrong for her to desire a baby, but it was vital for her to wait on God's timing. Her season of waiting prepared her spiritually.

Many of the things you are going through in the waiting season is preparing and growing you spiritually. The way to stay faithful through a waiting season is to stay in contact with God through:

- His Word
- Prayer
- Worship

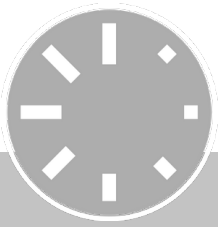
Remember to cling onto God's promises. Rejoice in the knowledge that He is preparing you for what's ahead. There's purpose in your waiting season.

Study and Reflect on the Questions at the end of the chapter in the book.

Do you trust God's timing during your waiting season?

Go Deeper in Study

Read Hannah's story in 1 Samuel 1 for a deeper look at just how determined she was in her season.



THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A NEW MAN

It is important to note that having our priorities out of order can cost us in our waiting season. Yet, we must have a change of heart, to get to where God is taking us.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:1-4 NIV

When our mindset changes, our priorities change. Our emphasis is on the inner person than the outer image. God calls us to be a new creature that demonstrates the fruit of the Spirit. He wants us to be:

- Compassionate
- Kind
- Humble
- Gentle
- Patient

Your Position and Condition in Christ

There's a difference between your *position* in Christ and your *condition* in Christ.

Position Once you are saved, your position solidified. Your position in Christ is unchangeable and comes with powerful benefits. We are co-heirs with Christ and children of the King.

Romans 6:3-11; Romans 8:14-17; Matthew 16:19

Your position is secured:

*My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all;
and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*

John 10:29 NKJV

Condition Our condition in Christ can change when we sin and "fall short of the glory of God." Our condition depends on our actions and the life we choose to live after salvation, robbing us of our joy.

Sin impacts our condition and pushes us further from God:

*For the wages of sin is death [separation],
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 6:23 NIV emphasis added*

When we choose to live a life pleasing to God by following His will, we find joy in trusting Him in all situations. Being in a good condition before God requires spending time in prayer and reading His Word. These draws us closer to Him giving us joy in our waiting season.

Key Characteristics of a New Man

Being new in Christ requires you to ask yourself several questions:

- Where is your heart?
- What do you love?
- Have you fallen in love with things that please your flesh but bring no glory to God?

Looking closely at Colossians 3:1 again should help us:

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
Colossians 3:1-4 NIV*

Because of our position in Christ, we have the power to change our condition by setting our hearts on things above. Matthew reminds us:

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well.
Matthew 6:33 NIV*

The more you learn about Christ, the more you will develop the characteristics of a new man. You are in a season of becoming so that you can learn to turn to God in all things.

Keeping Your Eyes on Him

Recognizing your position in Christ should help you focus on Christ and not walk in sin. It's vital to not be led astray because there is a price to pay for disobedience. We are called to take off our old self and put on our newness.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on

*the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge
in the image of its Creator
Colossians 3:5-10 NIV*

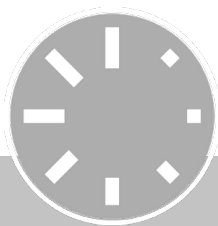
When we take off your old self and put on our newness, the season we are in will become refreshing and we'll emerge powerful in our destiny.

Study and Reflect on the Questions at the end of the chapter in the book.

Are you experiencing your newness in Christ?

Go Deeper in Study

Read Colossians 3 and go deeper where Paul urges us to be in Christ.



KEEPING YOUR EYE ON THE PRIZE

As Christians, we must use our seasons of becoming in preparation of obeying God's plan. Abraham grew rich while he waited. He was working to better himself and his holdings. He had a goal.

Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.
Genesis 13:2 NIV

We also need a goal. Without knowing the goal, we don't know we've reached the end our waiting. When we know where God is leading us, we can better prepare for our calling. It is important to know that there will be instances where we can easily recognize the goal; but other times the goal can be ambiguous or vague. When dealing with the latter, it is best to seek God to reveal the goals He has for you.

The Right Kind of Goal

Our waiting season is not our final destination. God has a perfect plan for you. Paul encourages us to be:

*Confident of this, that he who have began a good work
in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*
Philippians 1:6 NIV

While waiting, it is important that we know the difference between God's business and worldly things. Often, our goals are focused on the wrong things.

God's Things Things that align with God's word and His will. Things above as outlined by Paul:

*Set your hearts on things above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
Set your minds on things above,
not on earthly things.*
Colossians 3:1-2 NIV

Earthly Things Things that go against God's word and His will. Things that don't please God. Paul tells us:

*Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to the earthly nature:
sexual immorality, impurity, lust,*

*evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.
Colossians 3:5 NIV*

Our goals should glorify God. We must ask ourselves:

Is this about me, or is this about God?

Talents Versus Gifts

We must recognize the difference between talents and gifts. The goals you set should take into consideration your natural talents and gifts from the Holy Spirit.

Natural Talents These are the types of things you tend to be good at doing, such as singing or mathematics.

Spiritual Gifts These are given supernaturally by the Holy Spirit for the glorification of God and the edification of the body of Christ.

Everyone has at least one natural talent where only believers have gifts from the Holy Spirit. God wants us to use our gifts both spiritually and naturally. Make sure you come out of your waiting season ready to fulfill God's call upon your life.

Support for Your Goals

As you pursue your goals, you cannot carry the weight of extra baggage where God is leading you. In this season it is vital to check your baggage. Paul tells us:

*What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.
Philippians 3:8-9 NIV*

Knowing Christ is more important than anything else, so let go of everything that gets in the way of your goals.

Confidence in Moving Ahead

You can rejoice with the knowledge of having a God-given gift that you can use to contribute to His will. We should put our confidence in God to use our gifts.

If we're going to reach our destination, we must first learn to rejoice in the Lord even when it seems like our blessing is long time coming. Our confidence comes in our knowledge of Him and our ability to rejoice.

I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to content whatever the

circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:10-13 NIV

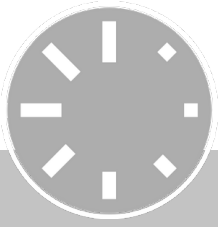
Strive energetically for the fulfillment of your purpose in Christ. You won't reach your destiny by accident, and you won't reach it by your own strength. Submit to God's plan.

Study and Reflect on the Questions at the end of the chapter in the book.

Are your goals on the things above or earthly things?

Go Deeper in Study

Read 1 Corinthians 12 to go deeper in understanding the Spiritual Gifts.



YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS

When taking a journey, it is important to pack only what is needed and know our goals. During our waiting season, God is seeking for us to use our time wisely so that we will be prepared for our destination.

In this season, the knowledge that God is in charge will help us on the journey to shed unnecessary baggage for the trip. As we draw closer to Him, we will know our priorities and what glorifies God.

May God grant you peace and joy in all of your seasons and bring you into the fullness of who He created you to be.

What will you do, after this study, when God has you in a holding pattern?

OUR VISION

Developing spiritual leaders in every nation who
can teach others about the love of Christ – a love
that cannot be earned and cannot be lost.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Click here to purchase
his book on Amazon**

Pastor Erick W. Hoskin, Sr. is the Senior Pastor and Founder of the Word of God Christian Fellowship Church (WOGCF) in Cypress, Texas where he is known for his heart, humor and clear presentation of the Gospel. Since its launching in 2010, The Word Church of Cypress as it is known, has grown from eight (8) members in Pastor Hoskin's home to over eight hundred (800) members and two Sunday Services.

He graduated with a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies from Grace School of Theology and this experience has been instrumental in his ability to provide holistic, Bible-rooted leadership to people. He is the founder of EWH Ministries Inc., which is known for its charity and community involvement. He is active in the local Cypress Community where he serves as a member of the Community Leadership Coalition (CLC) and Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce with the Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District.

Pastor E's ultimate desire for WOGCF is to see Christ exalted, disciples made, and believers equipped for gospel proclamation. It is his desire to carry the proclaimed gospel of Jesus Christ with power, anointing, revelation and edification. "For greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world." I John 4:4

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