

5 Keys to Waiting Well

By Candy Arrington

We all experience times when our lives are on pause and find waiting frustrating, challenging, and difficult to navigate. Perhaps you are facing health issues, waiting for a diagnosis, serving as a caregiver, grieving, or recovering from some other form of unexpected loss. We live in an impatient society, and we easily adopt that same mindset. Yet waiting is often beneficial.

Following are keys to waiting well when life is on pause:

Look Honestly at Motives

If your writing life is on pause, examine your goals and motives. Are you writing to provide information, help, and hope for readers? Or are you writing to see your name in print? Perhaps God sidelined you in a season of waiting to allow time to adjust your perspective and honestly assess your motivation as a writer.

Realize God is In Control

Accepting God's control is perhaps one of the hardest parts of waiting because many of us are wired to "do" and make advancements happen through our own abilities and in our desired time frame. However, God goes before us. He sees the completed puzzle before we even begin to put the first piece in place. God's methods and timing are far better than anything we can accomplish in our own strength.

Accept the 3 P's of Waiting – Protection, Patience, Perseverance

Often, God allows a time of waiting for our protection. Waiting causes us to rethink our direction and gives us time to reassess choices. In the case of writing, God may place you on hold to prevent you falling prey to a publishing scam that costs you thousands of dollars and leaves you with an unsatisfactory product, a book you are ashamed to have anyone read because it is full of mistakes and of inferior quality.

Waiting helps us develop patience. Patience prevents us from running ahead of God's best plan for our lives. Publishing is a slow process. By employing patience, you will be better equipped to handle the waiting involved in writing for publication.

As writers, we need to develop perseverance. Many times, we compare ourselves to others, see their advancements and accolades and grow discouraged. Perseverance keeps us moving forward when we feel like giving up.

Pray and Trust

While waiting, prayer is the best and most you can do. When circumstances are beyond our control, and they often are, prayer removes burdens from our shoulders and places them in the

more than capable hands of our Creator. Believe and trust that God is working behind the scenes to move you forward in his timing.

Praise God for His Faithfulness

Sometimes, we have the mistaken idea that praise is only for times when life is going well. But God is worthy of our praise no matter what our circumstances. Remember and review God's faithfulness in your life. Your experience with God's faithfulness will help you wait well when your writing life, and your life in general, are on pause.

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