

The Gift Of Waiting

By Andy Smith

“Noah and his wife and sons and their wives boarded the ship to escape the flood. Clean and unclean animals, birds, and all the crawling creatures came in pairs to Noah and to the ship, male and female, just as God had commanded Noah. In seven days the floodwaters came.”

Genesis 7:7-10 (The Message)

Imagine what it must have been like for Noah, a good man with a great family. He and his wife of many years lived a quiet life honoring the Lord and raising three sons. As their sons grew into adults and married, the extended family of eight all lived and worked together in the family business. Life was good for Noah.

One day later in life, everything turned upside down for Noah when he had a life-changing conversation with the living God. They made a deal (covenant) between the two of them. God’s part in the deal was that he was going to destroy the earth with a catastrophic flood and planned to “reboot” his creation by starting over with Noah’s family.

Noah’s part in this deal was to simply trust and obey his heavenly Father and build a ship the size of a football field in the middle of the desert and gather two of every living creature on the planet!

God’s promises are often crazy. His timeline can be even crazier. Noah’s construction project probably took decades to complete. For many years, the waiting, wondering and doubting must have been a regular part of

every day for Noah. Once the ship was completed, it appeared the waiting was finally over. Wait a minute, not so fast! The eight members of the family all climbed in the ship with the thousands of animals...and waited. For seven LONG days they waited inside the ship for rain.

- **Day One:** The neighbors are now looking out their windows at the family inside this huge ship in Noah's front yard waiting for rain!
- **Day Two:** No rain. Noah wonders why God didn't just wave a magic wand and this whole thing would be over without all this waiting. It had been many, many years since their conversation.
- **Day Three:** Not a drop. The smell is overpowering. The family is getting impatient with one another.
- **Day Four:** Talk about cabin fever! Family conversations around the dinner table are filled with awkward moments of silence with thousands of animals listening in!
- **Day Five:** Patience is gone. Tempers rise. Anger turns to doubt. Doubt leads to despair.
- **Day Six:** Noah calls a family meeting to discuss leaving the ship and moving to a far-away place.
- **Day Seven:** *It was the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month that it happened: all the underground springs erupted and all the windows of Heaven were thrown open. Rain poured for forty days and forty nights." (Genesis 7:12)*

God will always honor his promises. Always. Waiting in trust and obedience on God is hard work. He is faithful in all things. Our task is to trust and obey him totally.

God uses *waiting* as his way of teaching us how to trust and obey him. Waiting is God's gift to us. He is faithful. Now, it's our turn.

You do your part, I'll do mine is a light-hearted parable that takes a look at the crazy promise of God to Noah through the eyes of his three sons.

Questions for Thought:

1. What promise has God given you that you're still waiting on?

2. What lessons can you learn while you wait?
3. How can this period of waiting serve as a witness to your family members or friends?