



## ● WARM UP

Sitting in the doctor's waiting room is laced with anxiety and often seems a waste of time.

We may flip through a magazine as we impatiently wait for our appointment to see the doctor. So it is while sitting in God's waiting room. Often God is far too slow for us. But think of this: What God does in you while you are waiting is far more important than what you are waiting for. Crisis reveals character, and often we have to go through a crisis during the refining and sifting process. Life is made up of a journey of twists and turns, and it's during these times that we learn our greatest lessons in God's waiting room.

## ● READ Psalm 27:13-14; Psalm 40:1; Hebrews 12:9-11

## ● BACKGROUND

I got to thinking that all great leaders had to first sit in God's waiting room before He used them.

- Noah had to spend years building the ark and being mocked by his generation before God used him to save his family from the flood.
- Joseph was criticised by his family, thrown into a pit, sold into slavery and finally ended up in jail before he became a prince in Egypt and saved the Jewish nation.
- Moses had to spend years of isolation in the desert tending sheep before God made him a leader of the Children of Israel.

Crisis reveals character, and character is forged in God's waiting room.

## ● QUESTIONS

- 1 If you have had a dream or a prophecy, what is God doing in you while waiting for the fulfilment of it? Discuss and give personal testimonies.
- 2 God had promised Abraham that he would have a son. He sat in the waiting room for 25 years expecting something to happen. He got tired of waiting, so what did he do and what were the consequences? Genesis 16:4-5, 11-12

- 3 James 5:7-8 gives us an example of how the farmer patiently waits in the "waiting room". What lessons can we learn from this?

- 4 What was the end result of the Children of Israel growing tired of waiting for Moses to come down from Mt Sinai? (Exodus 32:1-9, 20) Discuss.

## What is God saying to me?

## ● LET'S PRAY

## ● REAL LIFE STORIES OF GOD'S POWER

*In the late 1970s I got hit on the small of my back by a squash ball and this caused major back problems. I couldn't bend over or leap. I was having injections regularly due to the constant pain. Two days after I came to the Lord, I attended a meeting on the North Shore. Bill [asked] for anybody with back problems to stand and I stood. As Bill prayed I felt an actual warmth come across the small of my back and instantly I was healed. From that day forth I have had no back problems and I am pain free. – Maurice*



## ● CONSIDER THIS

AW Tozer said, "It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply." That seems pretty harsh, but I think there is a hidden truth in those words.

The waiting room is a place that reveals character. Sitting around patiently waiting for the Lord to fulfil a dream or a prophecy over our lives is not our favourite pastime. It causes some people to get better, most get bitter - it's your choice!

Patience is a fruit of the Spirit, and all of us know only too well that it takes a painfully long time to develop. But if you know that the promise or the vision is from God, then wait for it. Read and take comfort from Habakkuk 2:2-3.