

## Devotional for the First Week of Advent

**Faith and waiting- Waiting and faith?**

**Do you remember waiting for something? How long did you have to wait?**

**I would bet that for most of us, one of our earliest memories of Christmas is the excitement of Christmas Eve. It probably seemed like the longest night of the year. The level of excitement of Christmas morning keeping you from sleeping.**

**It seemed like it would take forever to fall asleep.**

**Waiting is still difficult. We live in a world where just about everything is at our fingertips. I know when I order something off Amazon the minute I get the tracking information I track it multiple times before it arrives. We have food in a minute, instant messaging, TV on demand, there is an app for everything. Then we have God who finds ways of making us wait. Waiting and faith, faith and waiting seem to go hand in hand.**

**We wait for our soul mates to come into our lives. We wait for the day to come when we can hold our children for the first time. We wait for our wayward child to find their way home. We wait for a phone call to come for a job. We wait for news from the doctor. Some wait for that great spiritual moment when Jesus breaks into our lives. Waiting and faith go together.**

**In Hebrews 11:13 is reminding us that faith involves a deep trust in the promises of God that are often fulfilled long after we have gone.**

**It says, "These all died in faith without having received the promises, but they saw them from a distance ..."**

**Remain Faithful in Your Waiting**

**Advent is about faith and waiting.**

**What is it that you are waiting on God for? In scripture there were years of silence as God's people waited for the Messiah.**

**Take time out this first week of advent and remind yourself that God's good and perfect timing is far different from our time schedule.**

**The story of Jesus' birth shows us God's perfect timing. God's people waited for years for the fulfillment of prophecy and God broke through at just the right time.**

**if you are struggling with faith waiting for God that's OK. It doesn't take much faith to get God's attention. Jesus provided these words of encouragement to his followers: "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20).**

**As hard as you may try you can't grow a forest in a day. Jesus, tells us to begin with just a tiny seed. You will be amazed as it grows into its fullness.**

**An entire nation waited centuries before their eternal king appeared.**

**Mary wasn't given a full-grown son.**

**The Wise Men from the east didn't see the Messiah to appear at their front door.**

**Are you willing to plant faith and wait upon God? Nothing seems to be appearing on the horizon today, but just wait! God always keeps his promises, even to those who have little faith. Just wait.**

**How Waiting Affects You**

**Share: Share with a friend or family member something you are waiting for.**

**Encourage: Encourage someone you know who is weary of waiting. Remind them of God's promises.**

**Evaluate: Take inventory of your relationship with God. Are you struggling with His silence?**