



## DIGGING DEEPER

### Advent: *Waiting...*

*“In a culture where waiting isn’t something we do well, how do we grab ahold of this ancient practice and apply it to our daily lives? Our focus during Advent this year will be to learn about what it means to “wait on the Lord” and how we practice this discipline rooted in the character of our Lord.”*

## Hebrew Words for “Wait”

Here are a few of the Hebrew words I looked up that mean “Wait.” Enjoy!

Hebrew Word	Transliteration	Definition	Reference
קָוָה	<i>qavah</i>	To wait for	Psalms 130:5-6
יָהַל	<i>yahal</i>	To wait for	Psalms 37:7
חָכַה	<i>chakah</i>	To wait, await	Psalms 33:20
דּוּמְיָה	<i>dumiyyah</i>	a silence, a quiet waiting, repose	Psalms 62:1,5

## GREEK WORDS FOR “WAITING”

Greek Word	Transliteration	Definition	Reference
περιμένω	<i>perimeno</i>	To wait	Acts 1:4
προσδέχομαι	<i>prosdechomai</i>	To wait with eager expectation	Mark 15:43
ἀπεκδέχομαι	<i>apekdechomai</i>	Eagerly awaiting	Romans 8:19b
ἀποκαραδοκία	<i>apokaradokia</i>	Anxiously longing	Romans 8:19a
ἀναμένω	<i>anameno</i>	Living in expectation	1 Thessalonians 1:10
μακροθυμέω	<i>makrothumeo</i>	Waiting with long-suffering endurance	Hebrews 6:15
ἐκδέχομα	<i>ekdechomai</i>	Waiting with patience for a future event	Hebrews 10:12-13
ὑπομένω	<i>hupomeno</i>	Bear up under hardship	2 Corinthians 1:6
	<i>anexikakos</i>	Bear up under harsh treatment	2 Timothy 2:24
φέρω	<i>fero</i>	Patiently bearing the burden while waiting	Romans 9:22
ἀνέχομαι	<i>anechomai</i>	To endure circumstances without giving up	1 Corinthians 4:12
στέγω	<i>stego</i>	To bear or put up with hardship for the sake of others	1 Corinthians 9:12
κακοπαθέω	<i>kakopothéo</i>	To endure what is evil/bad and not be overcome by affection or adversity	2 Timothy 4:5
συγκακουχέω	<i>sugkakoucheomai</i>	Endure while being mistreated	Hebrews 11:25
καρτέρεω	<i>kartereo</i>	Willing to endure/wait through difficulties	Hebrews 11:27
ἐπιποθέω	<i>epipothéo</i>	Waiting for what you do not have	2 Corinthians 5:2
ἐλπίς	<i>Elpdzo/elpis</i>	Hope/confidence in future history	Romans 5:2

# “Wait” by Russell Kelfer

Desperately, helplessly, longingly, I cried;  
Quietly, patiently, lovingly, God replied.  
I pled and I wept for a clue to my fate...  
And the Master so gently said, “Wait.”  
Wait? You say wait? My indignant reply.  
Lord, I need answers, I need to know why!  
Is your hand shortened? Or have you not heard?  
By faith I have asked, and I’m claiming your Word.  
My future and all to which I relate  
Hangs in the balance, and You tell me to wait?  
I’m needing a ‘yes,’ a go-ahead sign.  
Or even a ‘no,’ to which I’ll resign.  
You promised, dear Lord, that if we believe,  
We need but to ask, and we shall receive.  
Lord, I’ve been asking, and this is my cry;  
I’m weary of asking! I need a reply.  
Then quietly, softly, I learned of my fate,  
As my Master replied again, “Wait.”  
So I slumped in my chair, defeated and taut,  
And grumbled to God, So I’m waiting... for what?  
He seemed then to kneel, and His eyes met with mine...  
And He tenderly said, I could give you a sign.  
I could shake the heavens and darken the sun.  
I could raise the dead and cause mountains to run.  
I could give all you seek and please you would be.  
You’d have what you want, but you wouldn’t know Me.

You’d not know the depth of my love for each saint.  
You’d not know the power that I give to the faint.  
You’d not learn to see through clouds of despair;  
You’d not learn to trust just by knowing I’m there.  
You’d not know the joy of resting in Me  
When darkness and silence are all you can see.  
You’d never experience the fullness of love  
When the peace of My spirit descends like a dove.  
You would know that I give, and I save, for a start,  
But you’d not know the depth of the beat of My heart,  
The glow of My comfort late into the night,  
The faith that I give when you walk without sight,  
The depth that’s beyond getting just what you ask  
From an infinite God who makes what you have last.  
You’d never know should your pain quickly flee,  
What it means that My grace is sufficient for thee.  
Yes, your dearest dreams overnight would come true,  
But, oh, the loss, if you missed what I’m doing in you.  
So be silent, my child, and in time you will see  
That the greatest of gifts is to truly know me.  
And though oft my answers seem terribly late,  
My most precious answer of all is still... “Wait.”