

# IT'S ABOUT TIME!



Daily Thoughts for  
Our Advent Wait

# HURRY UP AND WAIT

Welcome to the season of WAITING.

Okay, okay, okay, in actuality it's the season of Advent. But I like to call things what they are. And let's face facts, this season is all about waiting. And it's not waiting-in-addition-to-something-else. Just waiting, sweet and simple. Might as well speak plainly, folks—name it and claim it, ya know?

We aren't a people accustomed to waiting. We have instant messaging, after all. INSTANT. A century ago "instant messaging" was carried by a guy on a pony and took two weeks to get to Fresno from St. Louis.

If a package can't be delivered by Amazon within two days, I cancel my order. I have to wait a whole MINUTE for a video to load? What ... do I look like I'm MADE OF TIME? Waiting is uncomfortable for us. And Advent hits us right in the discomfort zone ... with WAITING.

What uncomfortable things have you had to endure lately? Which have been the major discomforts (like an inconvenient move to a new school, a divorce in the family, death of a beloved pet ... or friend ... or relative)?



First Monday ..... Psalm 27:14

# A CANDLE? YOU'RE KIDDING!

Want to know how insufferably long this wait is going to be? I'll give you a hint. Actually, it's not a hint from ME ... it's a hint from the folks who thought up the whole idea of Advent—a group of good and respectable Christian folks, I'm sure, from ages ago:

The hint is ... a CANDLE.

Oh ... it gets worse. The candle is the way we're going to be marking time this season. Can you wrap your mind around that?!

That's right! We're going to be watching a candle burn—four candles, actually ... one for each week of the season—to mark the moments of Advent.

The last time someone used a candle to mark time, his name was UURRGH, and he lived in a cave.

It could be worse. We could be watching grass grow, or paint dry.

What are some fast ways of measuring time (like using a stopwatch)?

What are some slow ways (like calculating the nuclear de-generation of carbon 14)?

# THE LONG HAUL

The worst are the LONG Advents—the ones in years when Christmas falls on a Saturday ... or (waiting-hades!) a Sunday. On Monday-Christmas years Advent only lasts a day past the three-week mark. But long Advents last a month. Nothin' like getting your money's worth out of Advent, huh? It's like getting your money's worth out of a dentist appointment.

Or ... maybe it is! I mean, admittedly I don't enjoy going to the dentist. But I do enjoy the result—especially if it means no more toothache, or a gleaming set of pearly-whites.

Waiting may not be comfortable ... but it might be good for us ... with benefits waiting at the end of the wait.

A manger with a baby in it might be worth waiting for, after all. Especially if that baby is God's Son ... and he's come to draw us into his family. Eternal life may be worth waiting for, huh?

Galatians 4:4-7 sums up the “worth-it-waiting” of Advent:

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.*

# PATIENT PRAYER(S)

Here is a prayer to center you in patience for the long wait of Advent. It was written 3000 years ago by someone who seems to know what waiting is all about. It's from Psalm 62:

*For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.*

—Psalm 62:5-8

Here's another one:

*I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

—Psalm 130:5-8

And one final boost for your patience:

*“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”*

—Psalm 46:10



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*But when the fullness of time had come,  
God sent forth this Son ... —Galatians 4:4-5*

With all of the activities and responsibilities you know something about the fullness of time! So does God, who took his time to make sure his promised salvation would be perfect. With this timely and fun devotional booklet, you'll enjoy spending time each day of Advent reflecting on God's eternal blessings.



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