



MENTORING LADIES

MATERIAL

Faith in the Waiting (Wandering) Season



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Faith in the Waiting (Wilderness) Season

At the age of 43 I am very familiar with the weight of the WAIT. I waited 31 years to meet my husband. Together we faced a waiting period of 6 years as I underwent numerous Fertility treatments and procedures before we were finally blessed with our first born, Kaleiah (I was already 39 when she was born and was miraculously blessed with our second girl, Lienka at the age of 41).

As women, we are all trusting God for something and often carry our dreams, hopes and desires quietly—prayers for our children, marriages, health, provision, purpose, or calling. When answers to these prayers take longer than expected, the waiting season can feel especially heavy. Scripture calls this place **'The Wilderness'**—the space between God's promise and its fulfilment, where prayers seem unanswered, direction feels blurred and God seems quiet. Yet, throughout Scripture, the wilderness is never wasted.

- God met Moses in the wilderness before leading a nation.
- David was shaped there before wearing a crown.
- Israel learned dependence there before entering the Promised Land.
- Even Jesus was led into the wilderness before beginning His ministry.

The wilderness strips away what we lean on so we can learn to fully lean on God. It's where faith grows **roots**, not **fruit**. Where trust is refined, not rushed. Waiting does not mean God is absent. Often, it means He is working deeply—preparing your heart for what your hands will one day hold. What feels like delay is sometimes protection. What feels like silence is often an invitation to **deeper intimacy**.

"Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength." — Isaiah 40:31

If you're in a waiting season, remember this:

You are not forgotten. You are not off-course. You are being prepared. The wilderness is not your destination—it is a passage. Hold onto faith and His promises. God is faithful to finish what He starts.

Waiting refines faith. It teaches us obedience without full understanding and trust without visible results. God often does His deepest work in hidden seasons, strengthening our character, deepening our prayer life, and aligning our hearts with His will.

"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him." — Psalm 37:7

Practical Faith Tips for the Wilderness Season:

Stay rooted in the Word - Read Scripture daily, even if it's just a few verses. God often speaks quietly during waiting seasons.

Pray honestly - God can handle your doubts, frustration, and tears. Honest prayer builds deeper intimacy with Him.

Practice daily gratitude - Thank God for small things. Gratitude keeps your heart soft and your faith alive.

Avoid comparison - Others' journeys are not your timeline. God's plan for you is unique.

Stay connected - Do not isolate. God often uses sisterhood to sustain (and Champion) us in waiting.

Serve while you wait - Purpose does not pause in the wilderness. Serving shifts our focus from lack to impact.

Make Worship your War Cry - Passionately PRAISE God before receiving the provision.

Declare God's Promises - Prepare the way, watch what you speak, get into the fighting posture. Breakthrough is not in the outcome, but in the preparation and process.

Rest in God's presence - Embrace the Battle and press into God. Stillness is not inactivity—it is trust. Let God refresh your soul.

The Bible reminds us:

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life." — Proverbs 13:12

Hope deferred doesn't mean hope denied. It means the timing is still unfolding. God understands the ache of waiting and the weariness it brings. In the wilderness, He is not ignoring our prayers—He is strengthening our hearts so they can sustain what is coming.

Throughout Scripture, God used waiting seasons to **shape strong women of faith**. In the hidden places, He teaches us dependence, humility, and endurance. The wilderness becomes the place where shallow faith grows deep roots.

When hope feels deferred, **guard your heart** from discouragement. **Stay connected** to God and to one another. Waiting becomes lighter when it is shared, prayed over, and carried together.

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful." — Hebrews 10:23

There were times in my wilderness season where I could barely pray. I didn't have the words or strength anymore. I wanted to give up many times. Even though my faith

was never hopeless the continuous battle in my mind and the weight of all the constant disappointments just became too heavy. However, it was during these times that I am ever so grateful that I aligned myself with wonderful warriors of God - woman of strength and character that carried, supported and guided me in worship and prayer when I was too weak to do it myself. And today I can testify of my Miracle Working Father and His Faithfulness to answer a prayer and fulfil a promise.

This reminds me of the story in Exodus 17:8-13, where Moses had to keep his staff in the air while Joshua was fighting the Amalekites. When Moses lifted his hands, Israel prevailed. When his hands grew tired and dropped, the Amalekites gained ground. As the battle went on, Moses became exhausted. Aaron and Hur came alongside him. They placed a stone under Moses so he could sit. They held up his hands—one on each side. Moses' hands remained raised until sunset, and Joshua defeated Amalek.

Why is this story important? We will all grow weary and we need support, because God's work is often communal, not solitary. Surround and align yourself with a community of believers who will encourage, support and shape you. (Iron sharpens Iron). It also reminds us that Spiritual Posture affects earthly battles. As long as we lift our hands and fix our gaze on Him in worship the battle is already won - because God is already victorious!!

"Do not be afraid... for the battle is not yours, but Gods." - 2 Chronicles 20:15

"I waited patiently for the LORD; He turned to me and heard my cry." - Psalm 40:1

I want to end with this powerful lesson:

A glow stick doesn't work until you break it. A glow stick can't fulfil its purpose or do what it is designed/created to do until it is broken first. The glow stick can't be successful until it is dark. The more glow sticks you have, the lighter it becomes. So when you feel like you are currently walking through the darkest season in your life - God is going to reveal the light and strength of Jesus Christ in and through you by the POWER of your testimony.

Prayer for the Waiting Season:

Heavenly Father, I bring my weary heart to You today. You see the prayers that remain unanswered and the dreams that still ache. I bring You my disappointment, not just my faith. Waiting is hard, and sometimes I struggle to understand Your timing. Help me trust You when the outcome is unclear and the longing remains. Teach me to believe that You are enough—even here. Hold my heart, redeem my pain, and lead me into a life that honours You, whatever shape it takes. Help me to trust You even when I cannot see the way forward. Teach me what You want me to learn in

this season. Strengthen my faith, quiet my anxiety, and remind me that You are working even in silence. I place my hope in You and surrender this waiting season into Your hands.

To You be the Honour and Glory.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

ADDITIONAL READING:

When the Answer Is Not What We Hoped For

Sometimes the deepest pain in faith is not waiting... it's facing the possibility that the thing we are praying for may never come in the way we imagined.

The Bible never promises that every godly desire will be fulfilled on this side of heaven. Many faithful people loved God deeply and still carried unfulfilled longings:

- Hannah waited years in anguish before conceiving.
- Paul prayed repeatedly for his thorn to be removed—and God said no.
- Jesus Himself asked for the cup to pass—yet surrendered to the Father's will.

Faith is not a transaction. It is a relationship.

If the Dream Never Comes

If you never marry. If you never conceive. If the prayer you've prayed with tears remains unanswered...

Your life is not incomplete. Your womanhood is not diminished. Your worth is not negotiable.

Marriage and motherhood are gifts—but they are not the measure of a meaningful life. Some of the most fruitful, powerful women in Scripture and history lived lives that looked “unfinished” by human standards—but were deeply full in God's eyes.

What God Promises Instead

God never promises:

- A spouse
- A child
- A life without grief

But He does promise:

- He will be near to the broken-hearted
- He will redeem suffering
- He will give grace sufficient for every season
- He will bring beauty, purpose, and eternal fruit from surrendered lives

Sometimes God fulfils a desire differently, and sometimes He fulfils it eternally.

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." — 2 Corinthians 12:9

Hope Without Guarantees

Biblical hope is **not** "God will give me what I want." Biblical hope **is** "Even if He doesn't, I will trust Him."

This is not shallow faith. This is mature faith. It's the faith that says:

- God is still good
- My life still matters
- My story still has purpose
- Heaven will make sense of what earth never did

For Women Carrying Unfulfilled Longings.

If this is your story, God does not ask you to pretend it doesn't hurt. He invites you to:

- Grieve honestly
- Lament freely
- Surrender repeatedly
- And live fully anyway

Your life can still be rich with love, spiritual motherhood, impact, joy, intimacy with God, and eternal significance. Nothing surrendered to God is ever wasted.

What Is Hope?

Hope is not optimism. It is not pretending things will work out the way we want. And it is not denial of pain.

Biblical hope is confident trust in God's character—even when the outcome is unknown.

Hope says:

- God is good, even here.
- My story is held, even if it hurts.
- This is not meaningless, even if it is unresolved.

Hope does not require answers. It requires anchor.

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” — Hebrews 6:19

Hope vs. Wish

A wish says:

“I hope this happens.”

Hope says:

“Even if it doesn't, God will not abandon me.”

Wishes are tied to outcomes.

Hope is tied to who God is. That's why hope can survive disappointment.

Hope When Hope Is Deferred

When hope is deferred, the heart grows weary—not because hope was wrong, but because longing costs us something.

Biblical hope doesn't erase grief; it coexists with it.

You can:

- Grieve and still have hope
- Lament and still trust
- Feel broken and still believe

Hope whispers:

God is still writing, even when the page feels blank. Hope Is Not Passive.

Hope is an active posture of the heart:

- Choosing to stay open instead of hardened
- Choosing trust instead of bitterness
- Choosing to remain in relationship with God

Sometimes hope looks **strong**. Sometimes hope looks like simply **not giving up** on God. And sometimes... that is enough.

The Truest Form of Hope

The deepest Christian hope is **not** found in:

- Marriage
- Children
- Healing
- Changed circumstances

It **is** found in this **truth**:

God is with us now, and He will make all things right—if not here, then eternally.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” — Matthew 5:4

Hope is trusting that comfort is coming, even if timing and form remain unknown.

A Simple Definition - Hope is trusting God with both the outcome and the ache. Not because life is easy. But because He is faithful.

Faith vs Hope — What’s the Difference?

FAITH is **trusting** God. Faith is about **who God is**. It is rooted in His character — His goodness, faithfulness, and sovereignty.

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” — Hebrews 11:1

Faith says:

“I trust God — no matter the outcome.”

Faith remains even when:

- Prayers are unanswered
- Circumstances don't change
- Dreams don't unfold as expected

Faith is relational. It is staying connected to God, even in disappointment.

HOPE is **trusting** God with the **future**.

Hope is about what is coming — not necessarily what we want, but what God has promised ultimately.

Hope says:

“God is not finished yet.”

Hope looks forward. Faith holds on.

How They Work Together

Faith and hope are not opposites — they need each other.

- Faith anchors us in God now
- Hope pulls us toward God's future

Faith keeps us from walking away. Hope keeps us from despairing.

Without faith, hope becomes wishful thinking. Without hope, faith becomes endurance without joy.

When Hope Feels Weak

There are seasons where:

- Faith stays... but hope feels thin
- You still believe in God, but struggle to believe for change

This does not mean your faith is failing. It means your hope is tired. And God meets us there too.

“Why, my soul, are you downcast? Put your hope in God...” — Psalm 42:11

Sometimes hope must be spoken back into the soul.

In Waiting & Unanswered Prayer

- Faith says: God is good, even if this never changes.
- Hope says: God will redeem this — whether now or eternally.

You can have faith without certainty. You can have hope without guarantees. Both are holy.

A Simple Picture:

- Faith is the root.
- Hope is the flower.

The flower may wilt in hard seasons, but the root can still be alive. And God knows how to restore both.

Faith trusts God's heart. Hope trusts God's future.