



Women of Joy: Trusting God's Timing in Delays



Discover how women of faith stayed joyful amid delay and learn to trust God's perfect timing over your own dreams.



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Introduction

Delays can feel discouraging, especially when dreams seem ready to unfold. For many women, balancing faith and hope during these seasons requires deep trust in God's timing. This 7-day study guides you through the lives of women in the Bible who faced waiting periods, setbacks, and uncertainty — yet found joy by leaning on God.

Throughout Scripture, women demonstrate resilience, patience, and unwavering faith, showing us that delays are not denials. Rather, they prepare our hearts and shape our character according to God's perfect plan. **When dreams seem stalled, God is still working.**

As you engage with each devotional, you'll be encouraged to embrace joy, develop trust, and align your hopes with God's timing. Let's dive into stories of women who waited with hope and discovered God's faithfulness on the other side of delay. *May this study be a source of encouragement and strength as you trust and wait with joy.* 😊 ✨





Day 1: 🌿 Embracing God's Pause



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Your Verse

Psalm 27:14 – "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Isaiah 40:31 – "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."*
- *Romans 8:25 – "But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."*



Day 1: 🌱 Embracing God's Pause

Devotional: Waiting Well: Trusting God's Perfect Timing

Waiting is not passive—it's an active posture of faith. When our dreams are delayed, the natural inclination may be to become anxious or discouraged. Yet Psalm 27:14 challenges us to *be strong and take heart* as we wait on the Lord.

Embracing God's timing means trusting that His delays are purposeful. Just as a plant must patiently take root and grow unseen beneath the soil before sprouting, so must we learn to embrace these seasons. Our strength is renewed by hope in Him, not by rushing ahead in our own strength.

Remember, God is at work even when it feels like nothing is happening. Waiting well is an expression of deep faith, knowing His timing is perfect, and His ways will bring about what is truly best for us.



Day 1: 🌿 Embracing God's Pause

Reflect and Apply

1. How do you typically respond when your plans are delayed?

2. What does it mean for you to “wait for the Lord” actively and not passively?

3. In what ways can waiting be a time of spiritual growth for you?



Day 1: 🌿 Embracing God's Pause

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time when waiting led to a better outcome than you expected.

2. List three ways you can remind yourself to trust God during delays.

3. Describe what 'being strong and taking heart' looks like in your current season.



Day 1: 🌿 Embracing God's Pause

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, help me to embrace the pauses in my life with strength and courage. Teach me to trust Your perfect timing, even when my dreams seem delayed. Renew my hope and give me patience. Help me to take heart and find joy in Your presence every day. *Thank You for working all things for my good.*

In Jesus' name, Amen. 🙏 🌸 ❤️





Day 2: ✨ Joy in the Midst of Waiting



Day 2: ✨ Joy in the Midst of Waiting

Your Verse

Nehemiah 8:10 - "...for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Philippians 4:4 - "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"*
- *John 16:24 - "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."*



Day 2: ✨ Joy in the Midst of Waiting

Devotional: Choosing Joy When Dreams Delay

Joy is not dependent on our circumstances but rooted deeply in God. When we face delays, it is easy to let disappointment overshadow our hearts. Yet Nehemiah reminds us that "the joy of the Lord is your strength." Joy gives us the power to persevere.

Choosing joy in the midst of waiting is a spiritual discipline. It acknowledges that God's goodness isn't steadied by how quickly our dreams appear but by His eternal faithfulness. Paul's encouragement to rejoice always in Philippians 4:4 strengthens us to hold onto hope with joy.

Even when our dreams feel distant, God's joy can saturate our hearts. We can invite Him to fill us daily, making our strength complete as we trust Him to bring about His best in His time.



Day 2: ✨ Joy in the Midst of Waiting

Reflect and Apply

1. What things steal your joy when waiting feels long?

2. How can you practically cultivate joy daily, regardless of circumstances?

3. In what ways have you experienced joy as a source of strength in tough times?



Day 2: ✨ Joy in the Midst of Waiting

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a moment when God's joy gave you strength during waiting.

2. List five things you are grateful for today to foster joy in your heart.

3. Reflect on how choosing joy changes your perspective on your current delay.



Day 2: ✨ Joy in the Midst of Waiting

Prayer for Today

Lord, teach me to find joy in You above all else. Help me anchor my heart in Your goodness and strength when my dreams take longer than I expect. Fill me with Your lasting joy that sustains me through every waiting season.
Thank You for being my constant source of hope and happiness.

In Jesus' name, Amen. 🌸💪🌺





Day 3: 🌸 Lessons from Sarah's Patience



Day 3: 🌸 Lessons from Sarah's Patience

Your Verse

Genesis 21:1 – "Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Hebrews 6:15 – "And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised."*
- *Isaiah 46:10 – "I make known the end from the beginning."*



Day 3: 🌸 Lessons from Sarah's Patience

Devotional: Patient Trust: Sarah's Example of Faith

Sarah's story is a profound example of trusting God's timing in seemingly impossible situations. For years, she waited for God's promise of a child, enduring disappointment and doubt. Yet in Genesis 21:1, God finally fulfilled His promise, showing that delay did not mean denial.

Sarah teaches us that patient trust allows God to work miracles on His schedule. Hebrews highlights Abraham's perseverance—he waited patiently and did not waver in faith.

Though waiting can be difficult, God knows the end from the beginning. Our faithfulness during delay acknowledges His sovereignty and purposes beyond what we see. *God's promises are sure, even if they come later than we expect.*



Reflect and Apply

1. What doubts or fears arise when waiting feels too long?

2. How can Sarah's story inspire you to persevere in faith?

3. What promises from God do you need to hold onto today?



Day 3: 🌸 Lessons from Sarah's Patience

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a promise from God that you are waiting to see fulfilled.

2. Reflect on how patience has shaped your character during delays.

3. List ways you can remind yourself of God's faithfulness each day.



Day 3: 🌸 Lessons from Sarah's Patience

Prayer for Today

Father, like Sarah, help me to patiently trust in Your promises. Strengthen my faith when waiting feels hard and doubts creep in. Remind me that You know the end from the beginning and that Your timing is perfect. Grant me peace as I wait on You. *Thank You for being faithful and true.*

In Jesus' name, Amen. ❤️ ⏳ 🌸





Day 4: ✨ Hannah's Prayer of Hope



Day 4: ✨ Hannah's Prayer of Hope

Your Verse

1 Samuel 1:27 - "I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Philippians 4:6 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*
- *Matthew 7:7 - "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*



Day 4: ✨ Hannah's Prayer of Hope

Devotional: Persistent Prayer Fuels Hope and Joy

Hannah's journey shows the power of persistent prayer in seasons of longing and delay. Deeply desiring a child, she brought her burden to God with heartfelt prayers, entrusting her dreams wholeheartedly to Him. In 1 Samuel 1:27, God responded to her faith.

Hannah reminds us that presenting our requests to God with thanksgiving strengthens our hope. Philippians encourages us not to be anxious but to pray continually, trusting God's perfect plan.

Jesus' words in Matthew affirm that persistence and faith in asking are vital. Hannah's story encourages us to hold onto hope through prayer, confident that God hears and cares deeply.



Day 4: ✨ Hannah's Prayer of Hope

Reflect and Apply

1. How does prayer affect your hope when dreams feel delayed?

2. In what ways can thanksgiving deepen your trust in God during waiting?

3. What is one prayer you need to bring back to God with renewed faith?



Day 4: ✨ Hannah's Prayer of Hope

Journaling Prompts

1. Write a prayer like Hannah's, laying your deepest desires before God.

2. List ways you've seen God answer prayers in unexpected timing.

3. Reflect on how prayer has sustained you through difficult seasons.



Day 4: ✨ Hannah's Prayer of Hope

Prayer for Today

God of Hope, thank You for hearing my prayers and seeing my heart's desires. Help me to pray persistently with thanksgiving, trusting You fully while I wait. Strengthen my faith and remind me that You are always working for my good. *May my hope remain in You alone.*

In Christ's name, Amen. 🙏 🌟 🌹





Day 5: 💖 Ruth's Faithful Steps



Day 5: ❤️ Ruth's Faithful Steps

Your Verse

Ruth 1:16 - "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Psalm 37:4 - "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."*
- *Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."*



Day 5: ❤️ Ruth's Faithful Steps

Devotional: Faithfulness Paves the Way to Joy

Ruth exemplifies faithfulness and trust amid uncertainty and delay. Her commitment to Naomi and her faith in God took courageous, faithful steps into the unknown. Ruth's declaration in 1:16 reminds us that steadfast loyalty and trustfulness lead to God's blessings.

Delays may cause us to question or feel lost, but God invites us to delight in Him and trust beyond our understanding. Ruth's journey teaches us that faithfulness in small steps, even in waiting, positions us for God's best.

Trusting God means surrendering control and embracing His guidance, knowing He leads our paths toward fulfillment in His time. Like Ruth, our faithful steps build the foundation for fulfilled dreams.



Reflect and Apply

1. What faithful steps can you take today even if your dreams aren't clear?

2. How might leaning on God more closely change your attitude toward delays?

3. In what ways does delighting in God shift your focus from disappointment?



Day 5: ❤️ Ruth's Faithful Steps

Journaling Prompts

1. Describe moments when small faithful steps led to greater blessings.

2. Write how you can trust God rather than your own plans in waiting.

3. List ways you can 'delight in the Lord' this week amid uncertainty.



Day 5: 💖 Ruth's Faithful Steps

Prayer for Today

Lord, help me to take faithful steps even when I can't see the full path. Teach me to delight in You and trust You completely, not leaning on my own understanding. Thank You for guiding me patiently toward Your perfect plan. *May my faithfulness bring me closer to Your joy.*

In Jesus' name, Amen. 🙌🌿💖





Day 6: 🌻 Finding Strength Like Esther



Day 6: 🌻 Finding Strength Like Esther

Your Verse

Esther 4:14 – "And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Supporting Scriptures

- *Joshua 1:9 – "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*
- *2 Corinthians 12:9 – "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*



Day 6: 🌻 Finding Strength Like Esther

Devotional: Strength and Courage in Delays

Esther's story is a powerful reminder that God prepares us for specific seasons and challenges. When faced with delay and uncertainty, Esther found strength and courage to step into her calling.

Her courage came from knowing that God's grace was sufficient and purposeful. Like Esther, we are invited to be strong and courageous, trusting that God goes before us and enables us in every season.

Even in weakness or waiting, God's power is perfected. This truth empowers us to face delays with confidence, believing that God is actively working through us for His divine purposes.



Day 6: 🌻 Finding Strength Like Esther

Reflect and Apply

1. How can Esther's courage inspire you to face your waiting season boldly?

2. What weaknesses or fears do you need to surrender to God for His strength?

3. In what ways has God demonstrated His power during your past delays?



Day 6: 🌻 Finding Strength Like Esther

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time God's strength was evident in your weakness.

2. Reflect on how you can embrace your current season as 'for such a time as this.'

3. List areas where you need to ask God for courage and grace today.



Day 6: 🌟 Finding Strength Like Esther

Prayer for Today

God of Strength, grant me courage like Esther to trust You and step boldly into the plans You have for me. When I feel weak or uncertain, remind me that Your grace is sufficient and Your power is made perfect in me. Help me to live boldly for Your glory. *Thank You for being with me always.*

In Jesus' name, Amen. 💪 👑 ✨





Day 7: 🌅 Surrendering to God's Perfect Plan



Day 7: 🌅 Surrendering to God's Perfect Plan

Your Verse

Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord... plans to give you hope and a future."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Romans 12:2 – "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind... to test and approve what God's will is."*
- *Psalms 46:10 – "Be still, and know that I am God."*



Devotional: Joyful Surrender to God's Timing

The final step in trusting God's timing is surrender. Jeremiah 29:11 reassures us that God's plans are full of hope and purpose, even when our timelines don't align.

Surrender involves renewing our minds and allowing God to transform how we view our situations. Romans 12:2 points us toward this transformation, helping us discern God's will rather than insist on our own.

Being still before God and resting in His sovereignty (Psalm 46:10) invites peace into our hearts. Surrender is an act of joyful trust that God's plan, though sometimes delayed, is always perfect.



Reflect and Apply

1. What areas do you find hardest to surrender to God's timing?

2. How can renewing your mind help you trust God more fully?

3. What does 'being still' look like in your daily life amid waiting?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write about how you can practice surrender in your current situation.

2. List ways God might be shaping your future through the delay.

3. Reflect on scriptures that encourage you to trust God's plans.



Day 7: 🌅 Surrendering to God's Perfect Plan

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, I surrender my dreams and timeline to You. Help me to trust Your good and perfect plan even when it feels delayed. Transform my mind and give me peace as I rest in Your sovereignty. Thank You for a hope-filled future only You can bring. *Help me wait joyfully on You.*

In Jesus' name, Amen. 🌸 🙏 🌅





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