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Waiting in Prayer, Ps. 40:1-3

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Introduction

- Do you call your order at Sonic a relationship with that person?
 - No, because relationships involve two-way communication.
- Is your prayer life one of two-way communication? Or more similar to ordering food?
 - Today, we are looking at how God *speaks to us* in prayer so that we can grow in fearless praying.

Reasons to Wait

- Patience isn't one of our strengths today. We like to get the things we want *now*.
 - The psalmist spoke of having to wait patiently on God (1).
 - He was in a "desolate pit" in the mud. We often feel that way when we go to God in our prayers.
 - Nevertheless, he had to wait and we often have to as well.
- **Point:** While we are waiting, God is working.
 - "I am certain that I will see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart be courageous. Wait for the Lord." -- Psalms 27:13-14
 - How many times in your life have experienced an answer to prayer that was waited for? Wasn't the timing perfect?
 - Why do we have to wait?
 - First, God might be doing a lot more than what you expect.
 - Second, God might be doing something different than what you expect.

- Lastly, God might be *preparing you* for the answer.
- APP: Don't waste your waiting!

Reasons to Listen

- Another psalmist wrote during a time of distress and threats, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10).
 - The reader is encouraged to recount all the works that God has done.
 - God wants to give them peace, but what if they aren't listening?
- Point: While we are waiting, God is speaking.
 - God speaks through his Word. (Directs, Guides, Corrects)
 - God speaks through people. (spouses, godly friend, sermon)
 - God speaks through circumstances.
 - Opens a door—Closes door
 - God speaks through his Spirit. (Prompted... Moved... Led)
- APP: Learn how to listen!

Reasons to be Encouraged

- Point: Though we are waiting, we are heard.
 - His silence doesn't mean his absence.
 - "The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry for help." -- Psalms 34:15
 - "What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything? 33 Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies. 34 Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. 35 Who can separate

us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: Because of you we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered. 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” -- Romans 8:31-39 (CSB)