**I'm so impatient...**

...I give people "Get Well Now" cards.

**An don’t to go to the gym?**

Because of the weights!

**What did the impatient barber say to his customer?**

I think we need to cut this short

No in all seriousness I asked Sarah if she could remember a time that I was impatient and ……………………..fridge shelf…………..car head light……….

Lets pray

Exodus 6:6-9 “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord.”

8 times the Lord says “I will” in this short passage, not I may, or could He says I will.

**Something IS happening when you feel locked down.**

Some of the greatest figures in the Bible — Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David — had to wait for many years for God’s promises. Everything that they went through and dealt with and that happened in the meantime was used to prepare them, inwardly as well as outwardly.

Something was happening when they may have felt locked down.

Then, when they reached their promise, they were blessed, blessed beyond measure.

God invites us to believe that his faithfulness for tomorrow will come.

Handing control over to God is one of the main ways we can experience His love and peace. It binds us together with Him.

It helps us mature in our relationship with the Lord and helps us develop a character that is pleasing to the Lord and one that will also help us continue forward with Him.

They very same can be said for us during lockdown. We are all learning new things each and every day, forming new relationships, creating new if not different characters, talking to people we may never usually meet other than the usual very British “you OK?”, “Yeah you” and then we uncomfortably move on, because heaven forbid if someone actually said “well actually no…….” errrrr gotta go. We seem to be able to manage time better, things seem to have slowed (that is until we are told shops are opening and then half of the world descended on Primark).

**Pray during your own lockdown**

What I have certainly observed over lockdown is the amount of prayer for others, now straight away I’m not knocking that, I love praying for others as I am communicating with God and dedicating some time to spend with Him. But do we pray for ourselves enough? I mean proper prayer not just the “God please let me sleep its 3am” or “please Lord, no nappies today”…just me? Or general getting through thing prayers, I mean real prayers. The prayers from our hearts.

Now I reckon there are at least 2 things in our prayer life that will help with praying for ourselves during this time of waiting.

Certainly, only one of these options will bring us joy. As we seek to accept and rejoice in God’s working in our lives, including his timing, we can ask God to work in us two main things, so that our waiting is not in vain: being humble and able to trust.

**1. Be humble**

Sometimes, when I’ve found myself getting impatient and upset, I will remind myself that God is the one who put me here. (Use the 6 weeks up here example before family arrived) My life is not my own. This is humility. It is coming to realize that God owes us nothing and that we are privileged to have a personal relationship with Him – 1 Peter 5: 6-7 6Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

You see God isn’t a dictator at a distance, He is up close and personal. I read recently a great article in Psychology today by James Fallon PHD says “Somewhat predictably, dictators do not relate in a normal manner to other people in a person-to-person, [empathetic](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/empathy) way”

And that is certainly not the God that I know.

**2. The ability to trust**

Then comes trust, which means believing at least two things about God:

That he is pure and all powerful, and he is a  *loving, caring God*.

Believing God is *powerful* means that we know he is in charge of what’s happening; things are not a shock or out of His control.

He is *capable* of both helping us and changing things. Much of our anxiety in waiting is because we forget that we serve a trustworthy God - [**2 Samuel 7:28**](http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/2-samuel/7/) 28Sovereign LORD, you are **God**! Your covenant is **trustworthy**, and you have promised these good things to your servant.

You are not always in control of your circumstances.

Believing God is *loving* means that there is care and purpose behind all that he does.

For instance I’m reminded of when we buy a pet (and I should know, we have 11 including the boys) that we fall in love for as a shop, we then buy all of the pet’s needs, the cage for safety, food to keep them healthy water bottles so they can drink and warm comfortable bedding so that they may live a happy, healthy and loved life.

It means that he is faithful to help us right now and bring us blessings later. It means that his judgment and timing is always perfect and good.

God has promised throughout the Bible to provide and be there in our times of need and lockdown – Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Even during this long road of lockdown silence, God cares deeply for us. We can be like David and remind ourselves, Psalm 27:14

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Please let’s pray.(Pause)