

# **"What God's People Must do to be Prepared for Ministry-Pt.1"**

*In Acts 1:4-26, there are 3 essential elements that prepare us for ministry:*

## **I. Wait for what the Lord has Promised—vv.4-5**

## **II. Trust in what the Lord has Planned—vv.6-11**

Ps. 25:4-5, 27:14, 119:114, 130:5; Col. 1:13; 2 Sam. 7; Zech. 14; Eze. 40-48; Is. 32:15; Eze. 36, 37, 39; Joel 2; Matt. 24:14; Acts 28:30-31

Waiting on God isn't about the suspension of meaning and purpose. It's part of the meaning and purpose that God has brought into my life. Waiting on God isn't to be viewed as an obstruction in the way of the plan. Waiting is an essential part of the plan. For the child of God, waiting isn't simply about what I'll receive at the end of my wait. No, waiting is much more purposeful, efficient, and practical than that. Waiting is fundamentally about what I'll become as I wait. God is using the wait to do in me and through me exactly what He's promised. Through the wait He's changing me. By means of the wait He's altering the fabric of my thoughts and desires. Through the wait He's causing me to see and experience new things about Him and His kingdom. And all of this sharpens me, enabling me to be a more useful tool in His redemptive hands. (1)

The kingdom of God can be explained in this manner: The eternal triune God created a kingdom and two kingdom citizens (Adam and Eve), who were to have dominion over it. But the enemy deceived them, seduced them into breaking allegiance to the King, and caused them to rebel against their sovereign Creator. God intervened with consequential curses that exist to this day. Ever since, he has been redeeming sinful, rebellious people to be restored as qualified kingdom citizens, both now in a spiritual sense and later in a kingdom-on-earth sense [in the Messianic Kingdom]. [In the end], the enemy will be vanquished forever, as will sin [as] Revelation 21-22 describes the final and eternal expression of the kingdom of God, where the triune God will restore the kingdom to its original purity with the curse having been removed and the new heaven and the new earth becoming the everlasting abode of God and his people. (2)

1 Paul David Tripp, *A Shelter in The Storm: Meditations on God and Trouble* (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2009), 143.

2 John MacArthur & Richard Mayhue eds., *Biblical Doctrine*, (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2017), 44.