

book of the month | July 2025

Wait: Waiting on God in a World that Won't Wait.

Smedly Yates

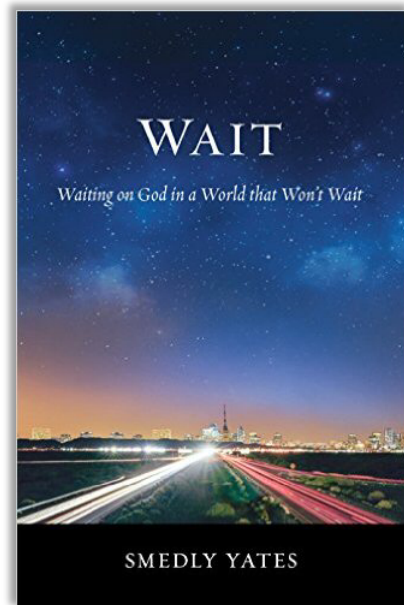
The very good book, *Wait*, was written by our very own pastor, Smedly Yates. This book was based on a sermon series that Smed preached to us. You can find that sermon series online in both audio and video at <http://www.gbcaz.org/series/wait/>. He then did a recent follow-up equipping hour series from December 2024-March 2025: <https://www.gbcaz.org/ministries/classes/equipping-hour/resources/>

In our modern world (and our worldly hearts), waiting is rarely something that is considered positive. Instead, we work hard to ensure we have instant gratification and maximal efficiency: Don't waste time and don't make me wait. Waiting in line is frustrating, but waiting on God often feels unbearable—even unjust or wrong. But the Biblical reality is that the Christian life is a waiting life. The Bible is full of examples of godly waiting, commands to wait, encouragements as we wait, and promises for those who wait in faith.

Smedly's book is very readable, and incredibly practical. You will likely not have any problems finishing this one in one month. Just thinking about waiting is helpful to recognize the opportunities that we have every day to wait well, using our opportunities to wait in faith as a means of sanctification. Patiently and diligently reading a book for a month (every month) is a way to practice *waiting* while you learn about waiting.

But let me encourage you that the book gets better and better as you progress through it. As I have read the book a couple times, I feel like every chapter is better than the one that came before it. The chapter on waiting for God in the fight against sin was one of the most helpful and practical chapters I've ever read . . . until I read the one on waiting on God's judgment. . . and then chapter 7 work ethic from Proverbs has proved to be a chapter whose admonishments and encouragements are almost daily on my mind. Chapter 8 climaxes with the reality that all Christians in this life are waiters, waiting for the one we are to long for with all our hearts, the return of Jesus. I cannot commend this book highly enough. Read it, soak in it. Read it with a friend or family member. Let's grow in this as a church, by God's grace.

Jacob Hantla



Plan: How will you complete this book in one month? Consider reading with your spouse, making time each week to discuss.

Read:

Week 1 Monday, 6/30 – Sunday, 7/6

- Intro
1. Waiting on God in a World that Won't Wait
2. The History of Waiting

Week 2 Monday, 7/7 – Sunday, 7/13

3. Waiting on God When Life Is Hard
4. What Do I Do While I Wait?

Week 3 Monday, 7/14 – Sunday, 7/20

5. Waiting on God in My Fight With Sin
6. Waiting On God for Judgment

Week 4 Monday 7/21 – Sunday, 7/27

7. Don't Wait
8. Waiting For Jesus

Think: When reading (the Bible or anything else), it's wise to read with a pencil in hand and your mind on, interacting with what you read. Mark up your book as you read. Each week answer at least the following questions and discuss with somebody.

Week 1: -When do you find it most challenging to wait? What from the first two chapters will you call to mind when tempted to respond sinfully to waiting?

Week 2: - How would you describe what it means to "wait on God?" In what way(s) are you waiting on God now? What should you do while you wait?

Week 3: - Which of the work-ethic principles from Proverbs (pp. 125ff) are you most in need of adopting? Confess sin where appropriate, make your spouse or good friend aware of this, and begin walking in repentance.

Week 4: -What one or two things must most impact you from what you have read? What changes in your living or thinking will ensure that these lessons will bear fruit in your life a year from now, a decade from now?