

PRAYER LESSON 207

Pray While Waiting

What do you do when you have to wait? Someone once told me that when he had to wait in line at the bank or super market, he imagines the people in line standing there in their underwear. I guess this made the wait entertaining for him, but it seems like there might be a better way to wait.

I know an old saintly women who prays for the other people in line while she waits. She tries to figure out what might be going on in their lives by their demeanor and then prays for them. She also prays for the people who are working in the bank or market. She even claims that the atmosphere in these places has gotten a lot friendlier since she started doing this. This seems to be a lot more beneficial then my first example.

After Jesus' resurrection he spent a few weeks teaching and ministering to his disciples. Then he went back to heaven and left them here to carry on without him. He said he was coming back or sending someone back to help them, but without him the disciples were truly lost. So, what did they do to pass the time while they waited?

Acts 1:14 **They all joined together constantly in prayer.** I guess my saintly friend had the right idea after all. While waiting for whatever Jesus was sending to them, they prayed.

The disciples felt helpless without Jesus and they truly were helpless. Until the Holy Spirit arrived on Pentecost, the disciples did not know what to do. But when the Spirit came they were able to do all the things Jesus could do. We too, if we were willing to admit it, are helpless without the power of God's Spirit. We often pray and then wait for God to answer. While we wait we can continue to pray until God's answer is clear.

So, next time you are stuck in line, try praying. Pray for those God puts in your view. You may be surprised how he intends to use you as he empowers you with his Spirit.