

*I am worn out waiting for your rescue, but I have put my hope in your word. My eyes are straining to see your promises come true. When will you comfort me? I am shriveled like a wineskin in the smoke, but I have not forgotten to obey your decrees. How long must I wait? When will you punish those who persecute me? These arrogant people who hate your instructions have dug deep pits to trap me. All your commands are trustworthy. Protect me from those who hunt me down without cause. They almost finished me off, but I refused to abandon your commandments. In your unfailing love, spare my life; then I can continue to obey your laws.*  
*Psalm 119:81-88 (NLT)*

## Waiting

**This is not one of your strong points.** What is not one of my strong points? **Waiting is not one of your strong points.** You've noticed? **I think everyone who knows you has noticed. It would take no one any amount of detective work to notice your impatience.** I'd didn't realize my impatience was that pronounced and obvious. **Now, you do, so today is a little bit of self-discovery for you.** I guess so. I'm not happy to hear that I have such an obvious problem with waiting. **Let me guess, you would like that problem corrected immediately.** Now, that's funny. **Yes, it is.**

How can I learn to wait? How can I be patient? How can be trusting? How can I learn to rest in your promises? How can I wait for you to fulfil your promises in my life? How can I rely more fully on you? **Those are all very good questions. Do you have any doubt that I will help you to learn how to wait?** I have no doubts about that. **How do you think I will help you to learn how to wait?** Do I have to answer that question? **Yes, you do.** You will help me to learn how to wait by having me wait. That's correct, isn't it? **It's obvious isn't it?** Yes, it is. **What will happening to you as you wait?** I will draw nearer to you. I will ask for your help. I will pray more passionately and persistently. **Will your faith grow stronger as you wait before me in my presence? Will you come to rely on me more fully as you wait for me to act? Or will you become discouraged and attempt to take matters into your own hands?** Now, that seems to be the heart of the issue. Will I trust you? Will I rely on you? Will I depend on you rather than on myself? **You are making even more self-discoveries today. Yes, I want you to learn to wait patiently as you trust me rather than yourself.** That I will do. I will wait for you to act. I will wait for you to fulfil your promises in my life. **That will be very good.**  
Thank you, Lord.

*Lord, I will place all my faith in you. I know that you are faithful. I know that your promises are trustworthy. I know that I can rely fully on you. You will help me. You will protect me. You will watch over me, even when I am going through great difficulties. Amen*

## **Promises** *How Long Must Your Servant Wait?*

My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word. My eyes fail, looking for your promise; I say, "When will you comfort me?" Though I am like a wineskin in the smoke, I do not forget your decrees. How long must your servant wait? When will you punish my persecutors? The arrogant dig pitfalls for me, contrary to your law. All your commands are trustworthy; help me, for men persecute me without cause. They almost wiped me from the earth, but I have not forsaken your precepts. Preserve my life according to your love, and I will obey the statutes of your mouth.

NIV

Psalm 119:81-88

## **Promises** *How Long Must I Wait?*

I am worn out waiting for your rescue, but I have put my hope in your word. My eyes are straining to see your promises come true. When will you comfort me? I am shriveled like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten to obey your decrees. How long must I wait? When will you punish those who persecute me? These arrogant people who hate your instructions have dug deep pits to trap me. All your commands are trustworthy. Protect me from those who hunt me down without cause. They almost finished me off, but I refused to abandon your commandments. In your unfailing love, spare my life; then I can continue to obey your laws.

NLT

Psalm 119:81-88

## **Promises** *How Long Must Your Servant Endure?*

My soul languishes for your salvation; I hope in your word. My eyes fail with watching for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?" For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten your statutes. How long must your servant endure? When will you judge those who persecute me? The arrogant have dug pitfalls for me; they flout your law. All your commandments are enduring; I am persecuted without cause; help me! They have almost made an end of me on earth; but I have not forsaken your precepts. In your steadfast love spare my life, so that I may keep the decrees of your mouth.

NRSV

Psalm 119:81-88

## **Promises** *How Many Are The Days Of Your Servant?*

My soul languishes *and* grows faint for Your salvation, but I hope in Your word. My eyes fail, watching for [the fulfillment of] Your promise. I say, When will You comfort me? For I have become like a bottle [a wineskin blackened and shriveled] in the smoke [in which it hangs], yet do I not forget Your statutes. How many are the days of Your servant [which he must endure]? When will You judge those who pursue and persecute me? The godless *and* arrogant have dug pitfalls for me, men who do not conform to Your law. All Your commandments are faithful *and* sure. [The godless] pursue *and* persecute me with falsehood; help me [Lord]! They had almost consumed me upon earth, but I forsook not Your precepts. According to Your steadfast love give life to me; then I will keep the testimony of Your mouth [hearing, receiving, loving, and obeying it].

AMP

Psalm 119:81-88

## **Promises** *How Many Are The Days Of Your Servant?*

My soul languishes for Your salvation; I wait for Your word. My eyes fail *with longing* for Your word, While I say, "When will You comfort me?" Though I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, I do not forget Your statutes. How many are the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me? The arrogant have dug pits for me, *Men* who are not in accord with Your law. All Your commandments are faithful; They have persecuted me with a lie; help me! They almost destroyed me on earth, But as for me, I did not forsake Your precepts. Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

NASB

Psalm 119:81-88

## **Promises** *How Long Must Your Servant Endure?*

My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word. My eyes long for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?" For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten your statutes. How long must your servant endure? When will you judge those who persecute me? The insolent have dug pitfalls for me; they do not live according to your law. All your commandments are sure; they persecute me with falsehood; help me! They have almost made an end of me on earth, but I have not forsaken your precepts. In your steadfast love give me life, that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.

ESV

Psalm 119:81-88

## **Promises** *How Many Are The Days Of Your Servant?*

My soul faints for Your salvation, But I hope in Your word. My eyes fail *from searching* Your word, Saying, "When will You comfort me?" For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, *Yet* I do not forget Your statutes. How many *are* the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me? The proud have dug pits for me, Which *is* not according to Your law. All Your commandments *are* faithful; They persecute me wrongfully; Help me! They almost made an end of me on earth, But I did not forsake Your precepts. Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

NKJV

Psalm 119:81-88

## **Promises** *How Long Do I Have To Put Up With All This?*

I'm homesick—longing for your salvation; I'm waiting for your word of hope. My eyes grow heavy watching for some sign of your promise; how long must I wait for your comfort? There's smoke in my eyes—they burn and water, but I keep a steady gaze on the instructions you post. How long do I have to put up with all this? How long till you haul my tormentors into court? The arrogant godless try to throw me off track, ignorant as they are of God and his ways. Everything you command is a sure thing, but they harass me with lies. Help! They've pushed and pushed—they never let up— but I haven't relaxed my grip on your counsel. In your great love revive me so I can alertly obey your every word.

MSG

Psalm 119:81-88

## **Promises** *How Long Must I Wait?*

I faint for your salvation; but I expect your help, for you have promised it. My eyes are straining to see your promises come true. When will you comfort me with your help? I am shriveled like a wineskin in the smoke, exhausted with waiting. But still I cling to your laws and obey them. How long must I wait before you punish those who persecute me? These proud men who hate your truth and laws have dug deep pits for me to fall in. Their lies have brought me into deep trouble. Help me, for you love only truth. They had almost finished me off, yet I refused to yield and disobey your laws. In your kindness, spare my life; then I can continue to obey you.

TLB

Psalm 119:81-88

## **Promises** *How Long Will I Live?*

I am weak from waiting for you to save me, but I hope in your word. My eyes are tired from looking for your promise. When will you comfort me? Even though I am like a wine bag going up in smoke, I do not forget your demands. How long will I live? When will you judge those who are hurting me? Proud people have dug pits to trap me. They have nothing to do with your teachings. All of your commands can be trusted. Liars are hurting me. Help me! They have almost put me in the grave, but I have not rejected your orders. Give me life by your love so I can obey your rules.

NCV

Psalm 119:81-88

# How Long Must I Wait?

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Promises** – Psalm 119:81-88

**In Context:** *Read Psalm 119*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

I am worn out waiting for your rescue, but I have put my hope in your word. My eyes are straining to see your promises come true. When will you comfort me? I am shriveled like a wineskin in the smoke, but I have not forgotten to obey your decrees. How long must I wait? When will you punish those who persecute me? These arrogant people who hate your instructions have dug deep pits to trap me. All your commands are trustworthy. Protect me from those who hunt me down without cause. They almost finished me off, but I refused to abandon your commandments. In your unfailing love, spare my life; then I can continue to obey your laws. Psalm 119:81-88 (NLT)

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

I am worn out waiting | for your rescue, | but I have put my hope | in your word. | My eyes are straining | to see your promises | come true. | When will you comfort me? | I am shriveled | like a wineskin in the smoke, | but I have not forgotten | to obey your decrees. | How long must I wait? | When will you punish those | who persecute me? | These arrogant people | who hate your instructions | have dug deep pits | to trap me. | All your commands | are trustworthy. | Protect me | from those | who hunt me down | without cause. | They almost | finished me off, | but I refused | to abandon | your commandments. | In your unfailing love, | spare my life; | then I | can continue | to obey | your laws. Psalm 119:81-88 (NLT)

**Praying The Scripture:**

***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I will place all my faith in you. I know that you are faithful. I know that your promises are trustworthy. I know that I can rely fully on you. You will help me. You will protect me. You will watch over me, even when I am going through great difficulties. Amen

**What It Means:**

***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

**Why is important that you put your trust in God's word especially when you are worn out?**

How has God's word protected you from attack when you were worn out and most vulnerable?

**When have you had to patiently wait for a promise of God to be fulfilled in your life?**

**How has your faith in God grown as you have waited for His promises to be fulfilled in your life?**

How has the Lord helped you to follow and obey Him even as you have gone through great difficulty?

Why can you confidently rely on God and the trustworthiness of His promises?

When has a long-awaited promise of God been fulfilled in your life?

**Living It Out:**

***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Place all your trust in promises of God and that He will fulfil them in your life.

**Seeing It Happen:**

***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that you can confidently wait for the promises of God to be fulfilled in your life.

**Get Ready To Share:**

***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group when you have waited for a promise of God to be fulfilled in your life.

**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

# How Long Must I Wait?

# Psalm 119

Year \_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

## Journal

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

### What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

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### What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

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### Prayer Of Blessing

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you wait patiently for the promises of God to be fulfilled in your life.*

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### Prayer To Carry

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, help me to wait patiently for your promises to be fulfilled in my life?*

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### What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

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### A Question To Ask God

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how will you fulfill your promises in my life as I love, follow and serve you?*

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