

## FBC Service Sunday September 13, 2026, When Waiting Turns to Singing

### Slide: Summer In the Psalms Psalm 40:1-5, Isaiah 40:28-31

There are some passages of Scripture that seem to reach into almost every season of life. Psalm 40 is one of them. **David begins with waiting.**

**Then he remembers a pit. Then comes a Rock. Then a new song.**

Finally, other people begin to see what God has done and put their trust in the Lord.

That is not merely David's story. In one way or another, **it's the story of every believer.**

**We know something about waiting. We know something about pits.** We know what it is to discover that we cannot save ourselves.

And if we have come to Christ, we know something about being lifted by grace, given solid ground beneath our feet, and discovering a song in our hearts that we could never have written for ourselves.

**Isaiah 40 gives us the same truth from another angle.** God's people were tired. Their circumstances were difficult. They wondered whether God had forgotten them. Isaiah reminds them that the everlasting God never becomes weak or weary.

**We become tired; He does not. We run out of strength; He does not.** We reach the end of ourselves; He never reaches the end of His resources.

**Put Psalm 40 and Isaiah 40 together and we hear a word many of us need:**

When we are waiting, God is still working; **when we are in the pit, God can still reach us;** when our strength is gone, God can renew it; and when He saves us, He can put a new song in our mouths.

### Slide: WAITING IS NOT WASTED TIME

**Psalm 40 begins with words that are easy to read and difficult to live:** David waited patiently for the Lord. We like the word **"LORD."** We're less enthusiastic about the word **"WAIT."**

We live in a world of instant answers, instant messages, instant purchases, and same-day delivery. **Waiting feels like something has gone wrong.**

Yet Scripture repeatedly shows us that some of God's deepest work is done in seasons when nothing seems to be happening.

**Biblical waiting is not spiritual inactivity.** It's not sitting with folded hands and saying, "I suppose nothing can be done." **Waiting on God is active trust.**

It's continuing to pray when the answer has not yet come. It's continuing to obey when the road is unclear. It's continuing to believe in the character of God when our circumstances do not yet make sense.

**Notice what David does not say.** He does not say, “I waited patiently and eventually figured everything out.” He says, in effect, “I waited for the Lord, and He turned to me and heard my cry.”

**The answer to our deepest need is not simply a change of circumstances.** It’s the presence and intervention of God.

Perhaps someone here has been waiting for an answer to prayer, waiting for a door to open, waiting for strength to return, waiting for a family situation to change, or waiting through a season that seems much longer than expected.

**Psalms 40 does not tell us that God always works according to our timetable.** It tells us something better: **our waiting is not unnoticed by God.**

Psalms 27:14 adds another dimension to waiting: *“Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous.”* Waiting on God is not weakness. **Sometimes it takes more courage to wait than it does to act.**

We want to fix the situation, force the door open, hurry the answer, or take matters into our own hands. But there are moments when faith says, **“I will not run ahead of God. I will trust Him enough to wait.”**

**David connects waiting with courage because waiting can test the heart.** When nothing seems to be changing, faith can begin to wobble. When prayer appears unanswered, discouragement whispers, “Maybe God has forgotten you.”

But David says in effect, “Take courage. God has not abandoned you. Keep waiting for Him.”

**Then Psalms 130:5 tells us what gives waiting its confidence:** *“I am counting on the LORD; yes, I am counting on him. I have put my hope in his word.”*

**That is tremendously important. Christian waiting is not wishful thinking.** We’re not merely hoping that somehow everything will work out. **Our hope has an anchor - God’s Word.**

When our feelings say, “God has forgotten me,” His Word says He will never leave us.

When circumstances say, “There is no way through this,” His Word reminds us that nothing is too hard for Him.

When the pit says, “You will never get out,” His Word reminds us that the God who lifted David is still the God who hears the cry of His people.

**So while we wait, we don’t stare endlessly at the clock. We look into the Word.** We remind ourselves of who God is, what God has done, and what God has promised.

That gives us a wonderful progression through these Psalms:

Psalms 27 says — Wait with courage.

Psalms 130 says — Wait with hope.

Psalms 40 says — Wait with confidence that God hears.

Isaiah 40 says — Wait with the assurance that God will renew your strength.

**Waiting on the Lord then, is never wasted time.** God may be doing some of His deepest work in us while we're waiting for Him to do something around us.

## 2. GOD MEETS US IN THE PIT

David describes his condition as a pit of despair, with mud and mire beneath him. **It's a vivid picture.** A pit's a place you cannot easily climb out of. Mud gives you nothing firm to stand on. The harder you struggle, the more helpless you can feel.

**There are many kinds of pits.** There is the pit of discouragement, grief, disappointment, fear, failure, loneliness, and guilt.

**But Scripture also points us to a deeper pit: the condition of humanity apart from God.** Sin is not merely a bad habit that needs improvement; **it's a condition from which we need rescue.**

**That is where the Gospel becomes such good news.** Christianity is not the story of people climbing their way up to God.

**It's the story of God coming down to rescue people who could not rescue themselves.** Jesus Christ entered our broken world, bore our sin at the cross, conquered death, and offers forgiveness and new life to all who trust Him.

David says, "He lifted me." **That little phrase places the emphasis exactly where it belongs.**

David cried, but God lifted. David waited, but God acted.

David was in the pit, but the Lord reached down.

Grace means that salvation begins not with our ability to climb but with God's willingness to save.

## 3. GOD PUTS OUR FEET ON A ROCK

God does not merely lift David high enough to give him a moment of relief and then leave him dangling. **He sets his feet on solid ground and steadies him as he walks.**

**What a picture of what Christ does for us.** Before Christ, we build on shifting foundations: our goodness, our accomplishments, our possessions, our reputation, our health, our plans. Every one of those can change. **But Jesus Christ is a foundation that does not move.**

**The Christian life is not the promise that we will never again face storms.** It's the promise that we can have a foundation beneath us when the storms come.

**Jesus spoke of the wise person who built his house upon the rock.** The rain fell, the floods rose, and the winds beat against the house, but it stood because its foundation was secure.

**There's a difference between having difficult circumstances and having no foundation.**

A believer may weep, but still stand on the Rock.

A believer may walk through the valley, but still know, "My life is held by Christ."

#### **4. GOD PUTS A NEW SONG IN OUR MOUTH Psalm 40:3; Acts 16:25; Revelation 5:9**

David says in Psalm 40:3: *"He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God."*

**Notice again who gives the song. God does.**

The same God who lifted David from the pit and placed his feet on solid ground now puts something into his mouth that was not there before, **a new song.**

**And the song is new because something has happened to the singer.**

Scripture tells us that if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation. There is a new relationship with God, a new standing before Him, a new hope, a new direction, a new future, **and therefore a new reason to sing.**

#### **THIS NEW SONG IS NOT DEPENDENT ON OUR CIRCUMSTANCES**

We need to understand this, because someone might hear Psalm 40 and think, "Of course David could sing. God took him out of the pit."

**But what happens when God has not yet changed the circumstances? Can we still sing then?**

That takes us to one of the most remarkable scenes in the New Testament.

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas are in Philippi preaching the Gospel. Because of their faithfulness to Christ, they are seized, severely beaten, and thrown into prison.

**And then Luke gives us this extraordinary picture in Acts 16:25:**

*"Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God."*

**At midnight!** They're hurting. They're imprisoned. Their backs bear the wounds of the beating.

Their feet are in stocks. They don't know what morning will bring. **And they're singing.**

That tells me something important about the Christian's new song:

#### **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE OUT OF THE PRISON TO HAVE A SONG**

David sang because God had brought him out of the pit.

**Paul and Silas sang while they were still in the prison. Both are faith.**

Sometimes we praise God after He changes our circumstances.

Sometimes we praise God before He changes them.

And sometimes we praise Him even when we don't know **whether He will** change them.

**That is a deeper kind of praise.**

Paul and Silas were not singing because prison was pleasant. They were singing because God was still God in the prison. **Midnight had not changed who Jesus was.**

The prison had changed their circumstances, but it could not take away their song.

**The world knows how to sing when everything is going well.**

It's easy to sing when prayer has been answered, the diagnosis is good, the family is well, the bills are paid and tomorrow looks bright.

**But there's a song that only grace can teach us.**

It's the song that says: "God is good even when life is hard."

It's the song that says, "Jesus is with me even when I cannot see the way ahead."

It's the song that says, "I may not understand what God is doing, but I know whom I have believed."

**That is the song of faith. And somebody may need to hear this, this Sunday morning:**

Perhaps you're living through a midnight season right now. You would never have chosen it. You cannot see very far ahead.

Remember Paul and Silas. Midnight is still a good time to pray. And midnight is still a good time to sing.

**BECAUSE SOMEBODY MAY BE LISTENING TO YOUR SONG**

**In Acts 16:25 while Paul and Silas were singing, the other prisoners were listening.**

They had probably heard plenty of sounds in that prison before, anger, cursing, despair, crying.

**But this was different.** Two beaten men were singing praises to God. **And people noticed.**

That connects beautifully with Psalm 40:3. David says God put a new song in his mouth, and then:

*"Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the LORD."*

**Our song is personal, but it's not merely private. People are listening.**

They notice how Christians respond when life becomes difficult.

Anyone can talk about trusting God when everything is going well.

But when a believer walks through disappointment, grief, uncertainty or suffering and can still say, “The Lord has been faithful to me,” **people take notice.**

**Sometimes our greatest witness is not the song we sing after the storm has passed, but the song we sing while the storm is still raging.**

Remember what happened in Philippi. Before that night was over, a jailer was asking:

**“What must I do to be saved?”**

Never underestimate what God can do through a believer who keeps singing in the darkness.

### **THE SONG BEGINS HERE — BUT IT ENDS IN GLORY**

Then Scripture takes us from a dark prison cell in Philippi all the way to the throne room of heaven.

John looks into heaven in Revelation 5 and sees all who Jesus redeemed gathered around him.

Then in awe and wonder he tells us: *“And they sang a new song.”* **There it is again. A new song.**

Psalms 40 begins with a man in a pit singing a new song.

Acts 16 shows us believers singing in a prison.

Revelation 5 shows us the redeemed singing before the throne.

The pit cannot stop the song. The prison cannot stop the song. And one day heaven will perfect the song.

**And what is Heaven’s new song about? It’s all about Jesus. The Lamb who was slain for us.**

The One whose blood purchased people for God from every tribe, language, people and nation.

That means the great song of eternity is not ultimately about what we accomplished.

**It’s about what Christ accomplished for us.**

We will not stand in heaven singing: “Look what I did.”

**We will sing: “Worthy is the Lamb!” That’s the awesome song grace teaches us.**

### **THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A JOURNEY FROM ONE NEW SONG TO ANOTHER**

Think of the magnificent progression:

Psalms 40 — He lifted me from the pit and gave me a new song.

Acts 16 — Even at midnight, I still have a song.

Revelation 5 — One day I will join the redeemed in the everlasting song.

**The song begins when Christ saves us. It carries us through the midnights of life.**

And it will continue when we stand in His presence.

One day there will be no pit. No prison. No midnight. No sickness. No sorrow. No death. No tears.

**The redeemed of God will sing together before the Lamb.**

### **DO YOU HAVE THIS NEW SONG THIS MORNING?**

David did not say, "I learned a new song." He said: *"He gave me a new song."*

The new song begins when we come to Jesus Christ, when the One who died and rose again becomes our Saviour, our Rock, our hope and our Lord.

When Christ becomes ours, He gives us a song that the pit cannot silence, a song that midnight cannot silence, a song that prison walls cannot silence, and ultimately a song that death itself cannot silence.

Perhaps there's someone here saying, "But Pastor, there are times when I'm simply too tired to sing. **I'm so weary.** I've been waiting so long that I don't know how much strength I have left."

### **5. WAITING ON THE LORD RENEWS OUR STRENGTH**

**This is where Isaiah 40 joins the message so powerfully.** Isaiah asks whether we have never heard and never understood: the Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary.

**That contrast matters. We do grow weary. Even strong people become exhausted.** Isaiah speaks of youths becoming weak and young men falling in exhaustion. **Human strength has limits.**

**But those who trust or wait upon the Lord find new strength.** The picture is not that God simply tells exhausted people to try harder. **He supplies what they do not possess in themselves.**

**Isaiah gives us three pictures: Soaring, Running, And Walking.**

There are seasons when God seems to give us eagle's wings and we rise above the difficulty.

There are seasons when we run and sense unusual strength.

But perhaps the most encouraging promise is the last one: **we will walk and not faint.**

**Most of life is walking.** It's getting up tomorrow and trusting God again. Praying again. Serving again. Loving again. Obeying again. **Taking the next faithful step to keep walking with Him.**

### **6. THE RESCUED LIFE BECOMES A WITNESS**

Psalms 40 says that many will see what God has done, be amazed, and put their trust in the Lord. **David's rescue was personal, but it was never meant to remain private.**

People were going to look at David and say, “Something happened to that man. The Lord met him. The Lord lifted him. The Lord gave him a song.”

**That is still one of the most powerful forms of Christian witness.** We should be able to say, “This is what the Lord has done for me.”

**You may not know every answer to every question. But if Christ has saved you, you have a testimony.**

You can say, “I was lost, but Jesus found me. I was guilty, and He forgave me. I had no lasting song, and He put praise in my heart.”

**Our world needs Christians whose lives make the grace of God visible,** people who have waited without abandoning faith, suffered without surrendering hope, and discovered that the everlasting God is still faithful.

### **SLIDE: FROM WAITING TO SINGING**

**Psalms 40 begins with waiting and ends this section with blessing.** Between the waiting and the blessing there is a pit, a cry, a rescue, a Rock, and a song.

**Perhaps that is where someone here is today.** If you’re in the pit. Cry to Him.

**If you feel your strength failing. Remember Isaiah’s words:** the everlasting God does not grow weary.

If you’ve been trying to build your life on ground that keeps shifting. **Come to Christ, the Rock.**

**And if you’ve already been lifted, don’t forget the pit from which grace brought you.**

**Don’t lose your song.** Don’t become so accustomed to a salvation where the wonder disappears.

The Church should be full of people who remember: **“He lifted me.” Not, “I improved myself.”**

Not, “I finally became strong enough.” **He lifted me.**

And perhaps the most important question this morning is this: **Has He lifted you?**

**The invitation of the Gospel is to turn from sin and place your trust in Jesus Christ.**

He is able to forgive. He is able to save. He is able to give you a new beginning and a new song.

The God who heard David still hears. The God who lifted David still lifts.

The God who renewed Israel still renews. And the Christ who saves is still mighty to save.