

MAIN POINT

Our waiting on God is not in vain but is shaping us for His purposes.

INTRODUCTION

How do you tend to handle waiting? In what situations or circumstances do you most often find yourself growing impatient?

How important is it that we learn patience in our walk with God? Why?

Our culture of instant gratification does not value patience. Because of this, we are often tempted to take matters into our own hands when things do not go our way. This is exactly what Saul did when faced with the prospect of going to war against a fierce army, and the results of his impatience were disastrous. By looking at Saul's example, we will see that impatience is rooted in prideful self-reliance, whereas patiently waiting on the Lord strengthens our faith.

DISCUSSION

> **READ 1 SAMUEL 13:1-15.**

How did Saul respond to Jonathan's victory over the Philistines (vv. 3-4)? What does that tell us about Saul?

How did Saul respond to the news that Israelite soldiers were deserting in fear? How should he have responded instead?

What would you have felt if you were in Saul's shoes? What would you have done?

Where was Saul's focus when he went ahead with giving up burnt offerings and sacrifices on his own? What caused him to lose patience?

What does impatience reveal about our hearts? What does it communicate about our relationship with God?

How did God respond to Saul's impatience (vv. 13-14)? What does this tell us about God?

What does God's response to Saul's impatient actions tell us about the importance of addressing and combating the impatience in our hearts?

Why is patience essential to the building of Christ's kingdom? Why is it essential at our church? In our community? Among the nations?

In what current situation or circumstance do you find yourself growing impatient?

How can we root out the pride in our hearts that drives our impatience? How might spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, and accountability help in this process?

APPLICATION

Where are you currently waiting on God? What would it look like to wait well in that situation? How will you pursue that this week?