



In the
waiting

A devotional

Earnest Oyebo

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A devotional

This book is dedicated to everyone in the waiting season. To those who despite their tears and uncertainties are holding on in hope of better days.

...all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Job 14:14b

INTRODUCTION

The waiting season is a period when a person remains in a place in readiness or expectation of something. It's often characterized by an inability to go about one's desired business. It's a season every man must go through and at several times in his lifetime.

Having gone through waiting seasons myself, and having had firsthand experience of the pain and strain of this season, it seemed good to me to carefully compile some of the lessons I've learnt in this season and from God's Word in order to help you get through this inevitable season of life.

Each day in the devotional is a blend of poetry and prose, so you do not miss a thing. As you read, I'm confident through God that this devotional will inspire hope within you and provide you with necessary strength and counsel to guide you through your waiting season. Do enjoy your read.

— Earnest Oyebode

Earnest Oyebo

01

In the waiting

The world advances on.

Maybe not, but

So it seems from this spot,

Just watch the sun.

*But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run
and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*

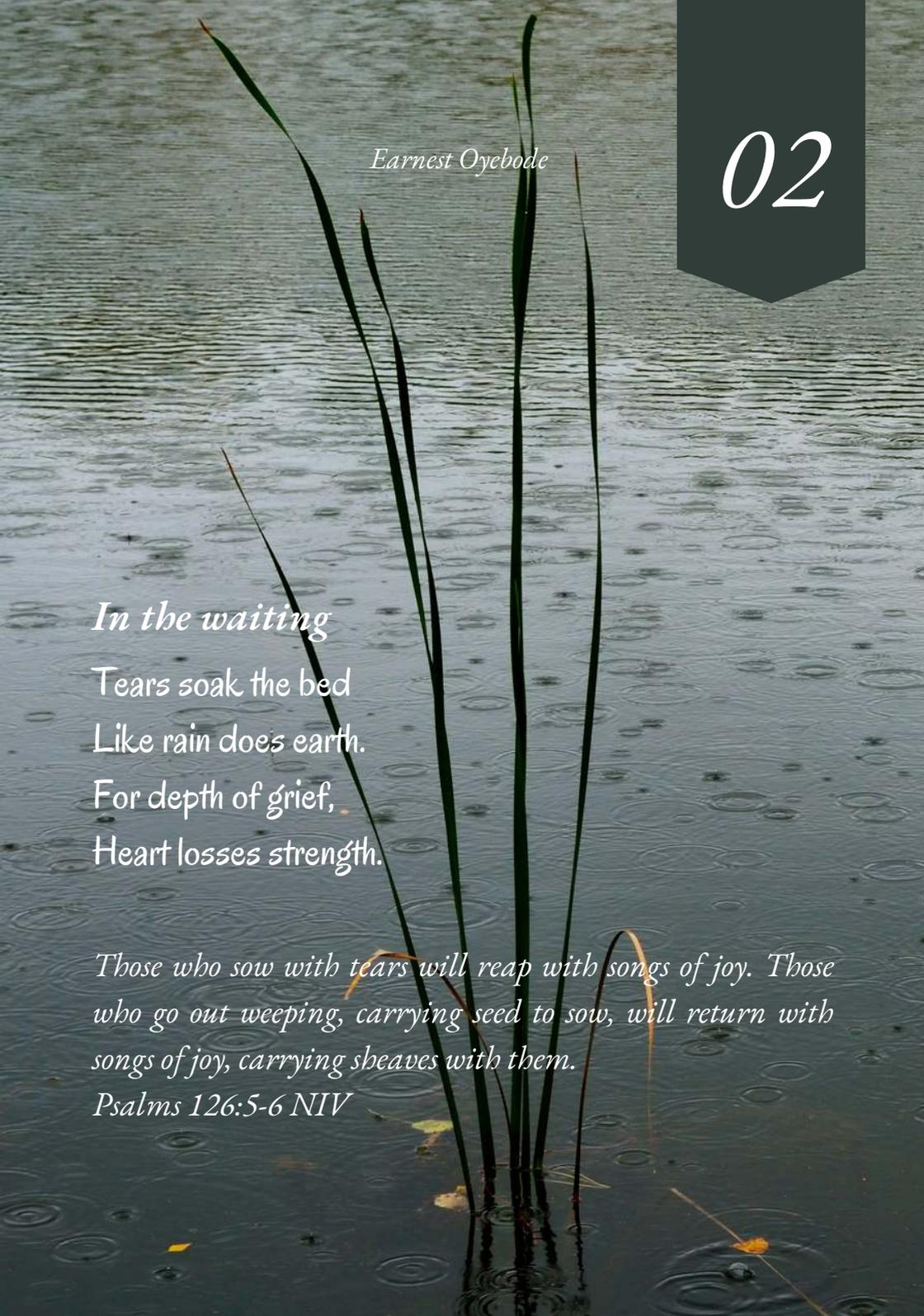
Isaiah 40:31 NKJV

In the waiting

You will agree with me that the waiting season would have been easier if we were in it together. Alas! It's often the opposite. It is in your waiting season that your friend James buys a car, Mariam gets married and even Ken who wasn't serious back on campus gets a job. Unbearable isn't it?

Before you give up, let me remind you of the Sun. Basic science taught us "it rises from the east and sets in the west" as though it travels from one end of the earth to another, making so much progress each day to intimidate the average man. The truth however is that it never leaves its position. Rather, it is the earth (you and I) that rotates daily and moves all year round the sun.

Beloved, don't be discouraged, you're making progress!



Earnest Oyebode

02

*In the waiting
Tears soak the bed
Like rain does earth.
For depth of grief,
Heart losses strength.*

*Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those
who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with
songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.
Psalms 126:5-6 NIV*

In the waiting

"*Bread and Jam,*" "*Man and wife.*" "*Waiting and Pain*" seems to be another "*5 and 6*" as we often tag things that go together. It isn't difficult to see a person in a waiting season cry and be moody. While I do not have a magic spell that can change your situation, nor a promise of an overnight turnaround, I have God's word for you. Hallelujah!

Our memory verse assures us that "in due season, we'll reap with songs of joy." Are you planting today, making efforts without corresponding results? Take comfort in this; *Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.* Stay strong, the struggle is not forever.

In the waiting

Nothing annoys as these:
A need without the means,
A dream but not the drive;
To be whelmed by weakness.

*But I am poor, sorrowful, and in pain; let Your salvation, O
God, set me up on high.*

Psalm 69:29 AMPC

In the waiting

One of the feelings I hate the most is the feeling of “helplessness.” It is like falling into a hole and not having the possibility of getting out by oneself nor of any man coming by that road. You want to scream but it’s useless, you cry but it’s pointless. It truly is a bad place to be in.

The waiting season is sometimes like this. You want to go somewhere but have not the wherewithal nor help to achieve this.

However, when it seems all hope is lost and there’s no one to call, remember God is only a prayer away. He is always there to hear us, comfort us and help us even in the darkest of days. Beloved, you need not despair when you can pray!

Earnest Oyeboke

04

In the waiting

Doubts gulf the heart,
And what-ifs abound.

Relax, you're on track,
It's just veiled in ice.

Even when your path takes me through the valley of deepest darkness, fear will never conquer me, for you already have! Your authority is my strength and my peace. The comfort of your love takes away my fear. I'll never be lonely, for you are near.

Psalms 23:4 TPT

In the waiting

The waiting season has a way of making you doubt decisions you once were so sure about. Even your knowledge about God is not safe as everything is brought under probing light.

Thank God we're not the first to experience this. In our verse for today, the Psalmist talks about himself wading through the valley of deepest darkness. This must have been a difficult season of his life that made him fear greatly.

However, one thing was clear to him and that is what I want to emphasize today: **It's all part of the journey.** He didn't see the valley as a path to escape. Rather, he saw it has a necessary route to the next mountain in his life. This understanding made him embrace God's comfort available to us all in the waiting.

In the waiting

Endless lessons are learnt,
And knowledge is tested.
You may say you trust God,
But wait till life turns sour.

Saul waited there seven days for Samuel, as Samuel had instructed him earlier, but Samuel still didn't come. Saul realized that his troops were rapidly slipping away. So he demanded, "Bring me the burnt offering and the peace offerings!" And Saul sacrificed the burnt offering himself.

1 Samuel 13:8-9 NLT

In the waiting

If you have been in the waiting, you'll agree with me that it is a time of discoveries. Discoveries about yourself, about people and about things. With these discoveries come surprises. Once close pals suddenly become distant, things once available in abundance become scarce etc. Among all, the most valuable discoveries are those made about oneself.

In the waiting, you discover tendencies you never knew you had, temptations you never imagined etc. It is in these moments your knowledge of right and wrong is put to test. Have you failed at any point? God isn't disappointed in you. Pick yourself up and with the wisdom gained, live life as you ought.

In the waiting

All men become your coach
And know something you don't.
But until your change comes,
Give ears, there's wisdom in some.

Then Job spoke again: "How long will you torture me? How long will you try to crush me with your words? You think you're better than I am, using my humiliation as evidence of my sin.

Job 19:1-2, 5 NLT

In the waiting

Two words run through my mind most times I meet someone; “spare me.” Spare me the sermon, spare me the motivation, spare me the advice, just spare me!

I’m not like that normally, but the waiting season does employ for you more teachers than you asked for. Virtually everyone now has an advice for you. Annoying!

But this is what I’ve learnt, “these things are essential.” They make you double check yourself, your decisions and your actions. And though you may be right in many ways, these people make you see the chink(s) in your armour. Beloved, it is wisdom to listen. Don’t be haughty but endure the pain, there’s something to learn from every man.

In the waiting

*Small gestures count,
Like ripples spread wide.
If they haven't kind words,
Spare yourself the hurt.*

*Kind words are like honey— sweet to the soul and healthy
for the body.*

Proverbs 16:24 NLT

In the waiting

Yesterday, we said to humbly listen to every man because there's wisdom to glean from every conversation. True as this is, in the waiting season, we're near the edge and therefore any little word may make us lose balance. This is why you must guard your ears and heart from demeaning and demoralising words.

Do you have a person around you who never encourages you but is **always** pointing out your faults and tearing you down even if jokingly? Then save yourself the stress, distance yourself from such a person.

Earnest Oyebode

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*In the waiting
We find a friend
Who greatly cares.
Blessings be thine,
Thou friend so dear.*

*His mouth is most sweet, Yes, he is altogether lovely. This is
my beloved, And this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem
Song of Solomon 5:16 NKJV*

In the waiting

The waiting season is often characterized by “needs.” Need for counsel, encouragement, support and sometimes material things such as accommodation, finance etc. These needs become pressing and life becomes difficult. It is in these moments that many make the mistake of becoming a burden to everyone and anyone. In desperation, they open up to wrong people and seek help from wrong places.

However, while it is important to not make the mistake of opening up to everyone, the need for support remains valid and that’s where friends come in.

As the saying goes, “A friend in need, is a friend indeed.” Just watch, your true friends will distinguish themselves in your waiting season.

*In the waiting
The coin turns tail.
At this, some rail and wail,
But not the wise;
They build their character.*



*But that's not all! Even in times of trouble we have a joyful confidence, knowing that our pressures will develop in us patient endurance. And patient endurance will refine our character, and proven character leads us back to hope.
Romans 5:3-4 TPT*

In the waiting

Have you heard of the yam and egg analogy before? Okay... before you think it's yam and fried egg meal I'm taking about, let me explain. Smiles.

Well, the illustration is thus; When you subject both yam and egg to the same boiling process, you'll discover that while the yam softens, the egg hardens. This makes us realise that it isn't what happens on the outside that really determines what becomes of us. Rather, it is the stuff we're made of on the inside.

The waiting season is like this boiling process. It's difficult, tough etc. And at the end of it, some turn out better humans and others worse. What's the difference? Yeah, you guessed right; "it is who they're on the inside." But thank God we're not yam or egg, we're Humans and have the power of choice. Choose today to allow the process mould you into a better person.

In the waiting

Thoughts roam the most,
Bumping on good and bad.
Since we can't turn them off,
We'd rather give them work.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Philippians 4:8 NKJV



In the waiting

The waiting season is a great time of thinking and reflection. Whether intentionally or otherwise, you'll agree with me that you often find yourself thinking. Thoughts are very vital to life. Inventions have been birthed out of thoughts and likewise, many lives have been taken by reason of unguided thoughts.

Therefore, since deep thinking can't be separated from the waiting season, it is important therefore to guard your thoughts, don't harm yourself with unhealthy thoughts. Rather, like our verse for today admonishes, think on things that are good, lovely, honest etc. Believe me, out of the contemplations of your heart, a brain child i.e. great idea will be born.



Earnest Oyebode

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In the waiting

When heat blazes red,
He gives a breath of air.
By this He's saying,
Faint not, I'm still here.

Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

Acts 14:17 NKJV

In the waiting

Can you remember a day during your waiting season when an unexpected miracle happened? Maybe a day someone you haven't spoken with in a long while calls to check up on you or a need you've been believing God for was supernaturally provided for etc. Whatever yours was I know it was like a breath of fresh air in the midst of the furnace.

Even though this little breath of air doesn't change so much and in a few hours or so, you'll be back to your default state; understand that this bit of fresh air is God assuring you that He's still here with you. Beloved, take time to brood over this seeming little event; in it is the strength you need to carry on.

In the waiting

The tears and fears
Are ours to hold dear,
Or let down in earth
For yield of strength.

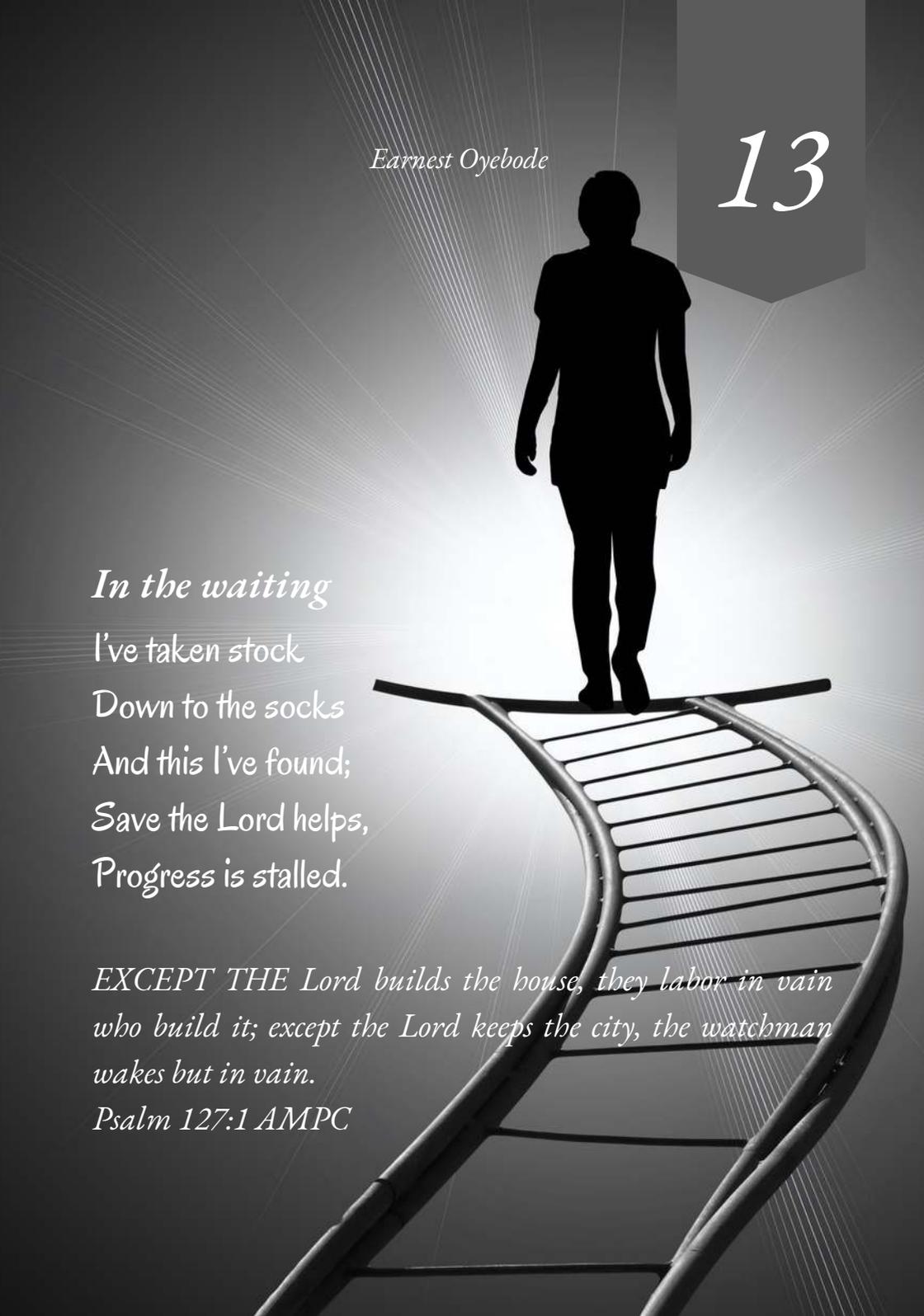
He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

2 Corinthians 1:4 NLT

In the waiting

When people go through the waiting season, they tend to fall on either side of two extremes. Some hold their pain and experiences so dear they don't share it with anyone. They do not share with others so they're not looked at as weak. On the other hand, there are those who go about telling everyone about what they've been through, seeking pity from all men.

As with every situation, the best place to be is never the extremes. The experiences gained in the waiting season are quite priceless and shouldn't be kept to oneself. Rather, these experiences should be reflected upon and carefully sown into earth (men) so that others can be strengthened by our own experiences.



*In the waiting
I've taken stock
Down to the socks
And this I've found;
Save the Lord helps,
Progress is stalled.*

*EXCEPT THE Lord builds the house, they labor in vain
who build it; except the Lord keeps the city, the watchman
wakes but in vain.*

Psalms 127:1 AMPC

In the waiting

I believe one of the greatest lessons you'll learn in the waiting season is that "except the Lord helps a man..." It is essential to learn skills, build character, work hard etc. However, we must come to an understanding that except the Lord helps a man every other thing the man does is futile.

This sometimes is the reason the Lord allows a man go through the waiting season. And in case you're wondering why? I believe a major reason is to take your mind off yourself. God will have His Children rely on Him and not on our own strength because with our strength, we can only do so much. But with God's strength, we can do exceedingly abundantly above what our minds can ever imagine. Praise the Lord!

In the waiting

Our hope rises

Though the crises.

We are assured

The night nears done.

Our proof, His Word.

But thanks be to God, Who in Christ always leads us in triumph [as trophies of Christ's victory] and through us spreads and makes evident the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere,

2 Corinthians 2:14 AMPC

In the waiting

The waiting season though dark, gloomy and painful is not without hope. Our verse today tells us we're always led in triumph, assuring us that through God and in Christ, we already have the victory.

Beloved, the battle may be raging strong or seeming long and unending, but here's what I can guarantee you, the battle has been won already and if you'll hold on, you'll see the victory manifested before your very eyes. The fan has been turned off and in no time, the blades will stop moving. **Hold on and keep the hope alive.**

Acknowledgements

*And he built structures on the walls of Jerusalem, designed by experts to protect those who shot arrows and hurled large stones[a] from the towers and the corners of the wall. His fame spread far and wide, **for the Lord gave him marvelous help**, and he became very powerful.*

2 Chronicles 26:15

I believe it's only appropriate that I thank God first for His inspiration and for the men and women He has brought into my life. For just as the verse above reveals, if it wasn't for God who gives help unto men, there'll be no one to write about or appreciate.

I'm highly grateful to Mrs Funmilayo Azoro-Ekezie, the VP Admin, KingsVille College, Abuja. Thank you for believing in me and my writing skills. I'll never forget the words you said about publishing my works. Well, here's the first-fruit of the seed you sowed.

To my NCCF mother, Prisca James, (Writer and Creator at Priscatee.com), I'm thankful for your review of this work despite the brevity of time and busyness of your schedule.

I may never have been able to get this book ready in record time without the timely feedbacks from Innocent Oyebode and the editing work done by Oluwapelumi Jegede. I'm grateful for your inputs.

To my partners at The House of Prayer Ministries,¹ Olajumoke Akintoye, Dondo Shater and Mercy Fayokun, I say a big thank you for your support, commitment and dedication to the vision. Your unrelenting and faithful discharge of duties afforded me the time and sanity to put this piece together.

Furthermore, I'll never forget the roles of my divine friends and siblings; Olajumoke Akintoye, Vincent Ajayi and Daniel Ayorinde. Thank you for your support, care and shelter during these defining seasons of my life.

I also say a great thank you to my Mom (Mrs Oyebode C.F.) and Siblings (Brother Innocent, Sister Gladys and Sister Gloria) for their constant support and for allowing me explore and make daring choices early in life. I doubt if this book would have been written without the experiences gained in these years you've allowed me lead the life I found meaningful and impactful.

Finally, I bless God for my spiritual leaders and inspiration, Pastors Muyiwa and Temitope Areo, Pastors Jesutomi and Joyce Bakare, and many other ministers that time and space would fail me if I must mention. Thanks for your labours of love over me and for equipping me through the ministry of God's Word and effectual prayers.

No man ever did something truly great without the help of men. Not in the Bible age and not in this present age.

Thus, I sincerely appreciate everyone including those I could not mention, for their unique contributions in shaping me into the person I am today. May God's blessings never cease from our lives. Amen.

The waiting season is a season everyone must experience. In this piece, the author provides a guide to navigating tough times, packaged with stellar poetry and relevant scriptures. These will help the reader navigate life and its challenges, leveraging them to squeeze from within the juices that reflect the personality of an indomitable warrior.

— **Prisca James**

Writer and Creator at Priscatee.com

"Bread and Jam," "Man and wife." "Waiting and Pain" seems to be another *"5 and 6"* as we often tag things that go together. It isn't difficult to see a person in a waiting season cry and be moody. While I do not have a magic spell that can change your situation, nor a promise of an overnight turnaround, I have God's word for you. Hallelujah!

— **Earnest Oyebode**



Earnest Oyebode graduated from the department of Plant Biology at the University of Ilorin.

He enjoys writing, teaching and is highly passionate about personal development and excellent living.

Similarly, he believes in utmost preparation as the key to ultimate success. He presently devotes his time

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