



## Episode 48: Receive the Waiting Time

I'm Emily P. Freeman and welcome to The Next Right Thing. You're listening to episode 48.

We've made it to week eight of our summer series a collection of episodes that have been a bit different from our normal routine rather than our regular episodes of stories, reflection, and a soulful action step. The episodes in this series have been much shorter, and have included only a reading of scripture and a short reflection.

If this is your first time listening to The Next Right Thing, welcome, and if you're wondering which episodes are included in this summertime series, you can go back starting at episode 41: Take A Breath where I introduce this series, and then each episode after that begins with the word *Receive* - these are all included in this collection.

As you may already know, this is a podcast all about helping you create space for your soul to breathe so that you can discern your next right thing. Many of the decisions we make in our lives are during times of transition.

Maybe you're a student and you struggle with the tension between the adult you are becoming and the kid they all remember.

Maybe you're adjusting to a new apartment, a new city, a new job, (or all three!) and you don't have a predictable routine quite yet.

Maybe your kids are home from school and your house feels unbearably loud and full and you love them but you also need some space.

Maybe you're grieving a loss, celebrating a win, or discovering something you thought was true isn't true anymore, or maybe it never was.

Well, the kingdom of God is here, in the midst of this life stage, in the midst of this season, in the midst of this moment, right now.

I hope that this series has been a welcome addition to your weekly routine, no matter what it holds.

I hope it has done for you what it did for me in the making which was remind me of the presence of Jesus with me now.

Most of all, I hope it has helped you remember who you are, what is real, that you are seen and loved and never forgotten. So take a few moments and receive these words from 1 Corinthians chapter 3.

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“What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.” 1 Corinthians 3:5-7

We’re burying seeds again.

We’re holding an idea in the form of a seed and we’re daring to believe it will grow.

So we’re digging in the cool dirt, dropping our dreams for the future into the darkness, covering them up and waiting. And it would all seem counter-intuitive if we knew nothing of gardening, maturity, and life.

Intuition says our ideas are to be out in the light! Displayed, produced, and worked on.

But in order for the dream or idea to burst forth with the light of life, first, it has to be buried in the darkness of time.

We’re pouring the clear water of hope on the mound above the hidden seed and we’re hoping she’ll begin to breathe, to break, to push down so that she might come up.

We're peering into the ground, but she hasn't sprouted yet. And this is when we often begin to wonder.

Maybe we've done this wrong.

Maybe we didn't put it down deep enough, water it enough, give it enough room to grow.

Maybe we've missed the seasonal window, we're too late or perhaps too early. Maybe we've planted the wrong seed.

Maybe we shouldn't have planted a seed at all.

In the waiting, it's easy to question.

In the waiting, it's normal to doubt.

May we not carry shame for our lack of clarity. Instead, may we allow our questions to linger, to carry them with respect as we wait for seeds to grow.

Have I been carrying an idea around in my hand and yet I'm unwilling to drop it into the dirt?

Am I afraid to put that idea down into the darkness and cover it up and wait for it to grow?

Do I wonder while I'm waiting about the goodness of God?

Do I wonder if he will let me miss it?

Do I wonder if he will make me wait alone?

Do I wonder if he will allow me to miss what he has for me and for others?

What am I afraid of?

Where am I placing my hope?

May we bring our unknowing into the kind presence of God.

“So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.”

May our friend, Jesus, be your patience as he gently leads you to your next right thing in love.

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Thanks for listening to Episode 48 of The Next Right Thing.

Here is a little programming note, as I mentioned at the top of this episode this is week eight of an eight week series I prepared for you here. I thought I would be all ready to come back at the first of August with our regular episodes but, Surprise! I'm not ready.

As I've settled down in silence the last few weeks and considered my own schedule these days, I've discovered I need to go completely silent here for just a little bit of time.

It won't be too long though I know better than to give you an actual date, but this will give you a chance to catch up on some old episodes, and perhaps leave a review (cross fingers) on iTunes. This is super helpful as it allows more people to find the show.

If The Next Right Thing has helped you make a decision or offered some relief from your own decision fatigue, well that's a lovely thing to put in a review. To those of you who have left some already, I thank you kindly, like this reviewer who said:

“My husband and I anticipate The Next Right Thing each and every Tuesday. It's a highlight and blessing of our week. We typically listen together on our front porch while our kiddos nap and we sip coffee. I've yet to listen all the way through and not be drawn to tears. Emily's words breathe life into my soul and give words where I have none. Her encouragement and words have allowed me to walk through these difficult days with grace and hope.”

Well, that is a gift to hear. Thanks so much for that *hstuart85* and for all 875 of you who have left reviews. Wouldn't it be fun to get to 1000 by the time we hit our one year anniversary in the middle of August?

Okay, well it would be fun for me. Like I said before, I'll be back in a few weeks but in the meantime, you can find me posting weekly on Instagram @emilypfreeman and you can also find transcripts to all our episodes at [thenextrighththingpodcast.com](http://thenextrighththingpodcast.com).

I'll close with one final thought on waiting. That while we may have to *wait to see*, I don't think we ever have to *wait to be*.

**The kingdom of God is in our midst. The kingdom of God is here now.**

Hurry and rush will steal our memory. We have to have some margin to remember our true home. I'm taking a bit of margin over the next few weeks and I hope you'll find ways to do the same.

May you continue to discover a few still, small moments in the weeks ahead so that you can discern your next right thing in love.

Thanks so much for listening and I'll see you soon!