

## WAITING ON THE LORD

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- I. THE NEED OF WAITING
  - a. What is to be observed from,
    - i. Lamentations 3:25? That the seeking of God involves a waiting FOR God.
    - ii. Isaiah 30:18? That God waits for men to wait for Him.
    - iii. Proverbs 8:34? That there is a promised blessedness to those that wait for Him.
    - iv. Isaiah 30:18? That this blessedness awaits everyone without exception.
  - b. Why does God wait with His response to man in the light of Isaiah 30:18?
    - i. In order to do a work of grace in man while God uses the period of waiting as His opportunity to do what cannot otherwise be done.
    - ii. To accomplish a work which will result in his exaltation and man's abasement.
    - iii. To manifest his mercy and demonstrate the wisdom of His judgment.
  - c. To what purpose does God keep man waiting in,
    - i. Psalm 37:7? To silence he natural restlessness and agitation of the human spirit.
    - ii. Habakkuk 2:20? To teach man reverence for a holy God and to give him a sense of his unworthiness because of his earthiness.
    - iii. Psalm 42:1-2? To intensify man's desire for God so that God might have a greater opportunity for a greater response.
    - iv. Exodus 24:12-16? To condition the human faculties for the reception of that which is to follow and to bring man into complete submission.
  - d. Note the rendering of Psalm 37:7 in the following translations:
    - i. Revised Version – “*Be still before (“silent to,” margin) Jehovah and wait patiently for Him.*”
    - ii. Young's – “*Be silent for Jehovah and stay thyself for Him.*”
    - iii. Hebrew – “*Resign thyself unto the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.*”
    - iv. Rotherham – “*Be resigned to Yahweh, yea wait with longing for Him.*”
    - v. Septuagint – “*Submit thyself to the Lord and supplicate Him.*”
    - vi. Moffat – “*Leave it to the Eternal and be patient.*”
  - e. How is this rest obtained in the light of,
    - i. Psalm 37:1? By not permitting ourselves to become fretful and envious (“*Heat not thyself with vexation,*” Companion Bible).

- ii. Psalm 37:3? By confidence in the integrity and character of God, Isaiah 50:10.
- iii. Psalm 37:4? By seeking and finding in God our greatest joy and deepest satisfaction (Psalm 87:7).
- iv. Psalm 37:5? By communicating our ways to God, i.e., turning our problems over to His care (“*Roll thy way upon the Lord,*” margin) I Peter 5:7.

## II. THE MANNER OF WAITING

- a. Note from the following scriptures the proper characteristics of our waiting:
  - i. Proverbs 8:17 – *Early*, i.e., without procrastination and before other interests.
  - ii. Proverbs 8:34 – *Daily*, i.e., this waiting should be systematic and not spasmodic.
  - iii. Proverbs 8:34 – *Watchfully*, i.e., alert to His response but without strain.
  - iv. Hosea 12:6 – *Continually* i.e., it should be a mode of life and not merely a temporary expediency in time of need.
  - v. Lamentations 3:25 – *Objectively*, i.e., this waiting should have a definite purpose with Him being the principle objective.
  - vi. Psalm 62:1, 5 – *Expectantly*, i.e., with confident and active expectation and not in a state of mere pious wishing, Micah 7:7.
  - vii. Psalm 40:1 – *Patiently*, i.e., calmly enduring the seemingly fruitless expenditure of time and effort in the realization that to hurry God is to find fault with Him.
  - viii. Lamentations 3:26 – *Hopefully*, i.e., with quiet and unwavering confidence in the ultimate response of God.
  - ix. 1 Corinthians 2:9 – *Lovingly*, i.e., this waiting should not be the waiting of a selfish beggar, but the waiting of a yearning lover.
  - x. Proverbs 8:17 – *Preferentially*, i.e., desiring Him in preference to anything else, Canticles 1:2.
- b. Comment on the difference Isaiah 64:4 and Paul’s quotation in 1 Corinthians 2:9: Isaiah speaks of the act of waiting for God, whereas Paul speaks of the motivation.
- c. Note the literal rendering of “**...what He hath prepared for him that waiteth for Him**” (Isaiah 64:4): “**Who hath worked for him who hath waited for Him.**”
- d. Comment on the literal rendering of Isaiah 64:4:
  - i. God sets the wheels of divine providence into motion on behalf of those who wait for Him in loving anticipation.
  - ii. God works while man waits and continues to work as long as man continues to wait.
- e. What may be observed from,

- i. II Kings 6:33? That there is a danger of becoming impatient with God and His seeming delays and failure to respond.
- ii. Psalm 106:13? That there is a danger of failing to wait for the counsel of God, Joshua 9:3-16.
- iii. Isaiah 49:23? That those who wait for God shall not be put to shame because of God's failure to respond.
- iv. Proverbs 8:34? That His response to our waiting may come through certain "*gates*" or "*doors*," i.e., through certain means and circumstances.
- v. Exodus 32:1? That failure of people to understand the need of spending time with God.

### III. THE RESULTS OF WAITING

- a. Point out some of the benefits derived from waiting for and upon God as seen in:
  - i. Isaiah 64:4 – A work of God which exceeds all natural expectation.
  - ii. Lamentations 3:25 – It will give God an opportunity to demonstrate His goodness.
  - iii. Psalm 40:1-3 – The answer to our petition for deliverance.
  - iv. Psalm 33:20; 59:9 – Divine aid and protection against enemies.
  - v. Isaiah 40:27-31 – Divine enabling to:
    - 1. Live on a high plane above the things of earth, Ephesians 2:26.
    - 2. Run the Christian race without failing by the way, Hebrews 12:1.
    - 3. Walk circumspectly:
      - a. Before God in sanctification, Genesis 17:1.
      - b. After God in obedience, II Kings 23:3.
      - c. With God in fellowship, Genesis 5:22.
- b. In order to help man into this divine enabling, to what does God point in Isaiah 40:28? To His eternity, sovereignty, omnipotence and omniscience.

### IV. THE LORD'S CALL

- a. What, in general, is the thought of Revelation 3:20-22? The Lord's call to fellowship between Himself and His people.
- b. Specifically, what is emphasized in,
  - i. Revelation 3:20? That communion is contingent upon man's response to His approach.
  - ii. Revelation 3:21? That such a response might involve conflict with other interests.
  - iii. Revelation 3:22? That this response is not merely a reluctant consent of the mind, but an active response in deed.
- c. Point out the principle contained in the following statements in Revelation 3:20-21:

- i. **“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock.”** *Attention.* He arrests our attention to make known His desire and obtain a response.
  - ii. **“If any man.”** *Opportunity.* The opportunity of fellowship with Him is given to *all*.
  - iii. **“If any man hear.”** *Perception.* Not the hearing of the natural ear, but the inner *hearing* of the heart, Matthew 13:15-16.
  - iv. **“My voice.”** *Recognition.* Samuel responded to Eli instead of to God for want of recognition, 1 Samuel 3:1-8.
  - v. **“And open the door.”** *Response.* Neither *hearing* nor *recognition* are enough without *response*, Exodus 3:4.
  - vi. **“To sit with Me in My throne.”** *Sovereignty.* Response to Him will result in overcoming things instead of being overcome by them through Him who **“hath made us kings,”** Revelation 1:6.
- d. The following scriptures suggest diverse ways in which the Lord may **“knock.”** Point them out from:
- i. Hebrews 4:12 – By the Word.
  - ii. 1 Corinthians 14:22-25 – By the Spirit.
  - iii. John 7:37 – By the sense of need.
  - iv. John 6:44 – By His drawing.
  - v. Acts 7:51 – By conviction.
  - vi. Exodus 3:2-4 – By supernatural phenomenon.
- e. What things need to be overcome in our response to the Lord’s call as seen in,
- i. Mark 1:16-18 – Occupational claims (Luke 5:27-29)
  - ii. Mark 1:19-20 – Social claims (Luke 14:26)
  - iii. Canticles 5:2-3 – Physical claims (Luke 9:57-58)
  - iv. Exodus 24:12-16 – Public claims (Luke 5:16)
  - v. Mark 10:17-23 – Material claims (Luke 14:33)
- f. What is shown in:
- i. Luke 14:16-20? The danger of allowing conflicting interests to become an excuse to justify unwillingness and lack of interest.
  - ii. Luke 14:21-24? That the opportunity given to us might for lack of response be given to those with a greater sense of need.
  - iii. Luke 5:59-61? The call of the Master will inevitably reveal where our first loyalties lie.
  - iv. Luke 9:62? That our loyalties should be made in an unhesitating act of finality springing from an irrevocable decision.

## V. THE LORD’S VISITS

- a. What is evident from Hebrews 2:6? There is such a thing as God visiting His people.
- b. How is God seen to be visiting His people in:

- i. 1 Samuel 2:21? By answering prayer.
  - ii. Zephaniah 2:7? By providential intervention.
  - iii. Luke 1:67-70? By fulfilling His promise.
  - iv. Luke 7:15-16? By supernatural deliverance.
  - v. John 14:21? By personal revelation.
- c. Comment on the term “**manifest**” in John 14:21: Also translated show, exhibit, reveal, and disclose; it is so strong that it implies a manifestation perceivable by the human senses.
- d. Point out diverse attitudes toward the Lord’s visits from:
  - i. Mark 5:17 – Unwanted.
  - ii. Matthew 24:40-42 – Unexpected.
  - iii. John 20:14 – Unrecognized.
  - iv. John 6:60-66 – Misunderstood.
- e. Point out various circumstances in which the Lord has visited man as seen in:
  - i. Genesis 18:1, 33 – In a time of rest.
  - ii. Matthew 14:23-25 – in a time of trouble.
  - iii. John 20:19 – In a public gathering.
  - iv. I Kings 3:5 – During the night.
  - v. Canticles 8:5; 3:6 – In the wilderness.
  - vi. Luke 24:13-15 – During a journey.
  - vii. Luke 24:28-31 – In the home.