

Waiting On God Series: 1

The Need to Wait on God

Psalm 27.14

“Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!”

Several times in the Scripture we read these words ‘wait on the Lord’. In this series of teaching we are going to explore this theme and see what the Bible says about it, what it means and how we can practice it.

Twice in this verse the psalmist mentions ‘waiting on the Lord’, so before we do anything else let us clarify the meaning of this statement.

First let us look for meaning from within the psalm itself:

In several places David mentions being in the presence of the Lord -

- vs4 – His one desire was to dwell, remain and abide in the house of the Lord and to seek the answers to his problems and situations from the Lord
- vs5 – David talks about being hidden in the secret place of the Lord’s tabernacle (dwelling place)
- vs8 – God’s instructions to David was to ‘Seek My face’
- vs11 – David also wanted to learn the way of the Lord

So in this psalm we see a man whose desire is to seek God, to dwell in His presence and learn the secrets of the Lord.

Now let us look at the word ‘wait’ from this verse in the original language:

The word used is ‘[qāvâh](#)’ (Strong’s #6960) – this has two main streams of thought*

1. to wait, to look for, to hope, to expect, to linger, to tarry
2. to collect, to gather, to bind together

*Brown-Driver-Briggs’ Hebrew Definitions; Strong’s Hebrew Dictionary

And finally let us look at the word in Webster’s Dictionary of American English (1828):

WAIT

- The sense is to stop, or to continue.
 1. To stay or rest in expectation; to stop or remain stationary, till the arrival of some person or event.
 2. To stay proceedings, or suspend any business, in expectation of some person, event, or the arrival of some hour.
 3. To rest in expectation and patience.
 4. To stay; not to depart.

5. To stay; to continue by reason of hindrance.
 6. To lie in ambush, as an enemy.
- To wait on or upon, to attend, as a servant; to perform menial services for; as, to wait on a gentleman; to wait on the table.
 1. To attend; to go to see; to visit on business or for ceremony.
 2. To pay servile or submissive attendance.
 3. To follow, as a consequence
 4. To look watchfully.
 5. To attend to; to perform.
 6. To be ready to serve; to obey.

So what does it mean to wait on the Lord.

All of God's children should be people who meet with God regularly –

- this helps us keep Jesus as Lord of our lives
- helps us to live humbly before God
- it enables us to worship Him
- helps us live holy lives which do not dishonour God

Too many of us relegate this time of waiting on the Lord to times of trouble, difficulty, stress. Some of us try everything else but wait on the Lord. We are going to see through these studies over the coming weeks that waiting on God is vital and a requirement.

In the verse from Psalm 27 we read that waiting on the Lord will actually strengthen our heart

I began by looking at other verses from that psalm – let us read them in the Amplified translation:

“One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek, inquire for, *and [insistently] require*: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord [*in His presence*] all the days of my life, to behold *and gaze upon the beauty [the sweet attractiveness and the delightful loveliness]* of the Lord and to meditate, consider, *and inquire in His temple.*” (vs4, Amp)

“You have said, *Seek My face [inquire for and require My presence as your vital need]. My heart says to You, Your face (Your presence), Lord, will I seek, inquire for, and require [of necessity and on the authority of Your Word].*” (vs8, Amp)

Waiting on the Lord is not a one-off thing – it needs to be a daily discipline that spans our entire lifetime, it should be our lifestyle where we come into His presence for a while no matter how busy our schedules are.

Martin Luther, the 16th century Reformist, famously remarked, “*Work, work, from morning until late at night. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall have to spend the first three hours in prayer!*”

Waiting on God needs to be our number one priority of life as a Christian.

There is a promise in the Bible – James 4.8 “[Draw near to God and He will draw near to you](#)”

If we could look at our time-use priorities from God’s eyes, we would probably be very shocked. Remember what Jesus spoke to Martha, who was extremely busy serving Him and complaining that her sister Mary was doing nothing to help. He said that Mary had chosen the better thing – sitting at His feet and listening
“[And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."](#)” Luke 10.41-42

Waiting on God is the one thing that is needed. A lot of Christians are weak spiritually because they do not give the time they need to wait on God,

We have just been studying (last few weeks) on the topic of God’s Presence with Man. The men and women who accomplished anything for God had learned the secret of waiting on Him

In waiting,

- we strengthen ourselves in God
- we get God confidence, which reinforces our faith
- we hear from God
- we learn the ways of God
- we are raised up and delivered out of our troubles

Over the coming weeks, God willing, we are going to explore this topic and see the process and fruit of waiting