

## Waiting On God Series: 5

### The Process of Waiting – part 1

We finished last time by thinking about the places we should wait on the Lord.

‘Is there a right or wrong place to wait on God?’ We answered this question by looking at what Jesus said:

In Matthew 6.5-6 we saw that

- Our seeking or waiting on God is not meant to be done in public where men can see and praise or thank us for our piety – that’s pride (we want the recognition) and hypocrisy where we want to make a public show (the literal meaning of the word hypocrite is ‘*an actor*’).
- We are to go into the secret place where only God can see us. Where we are alone with Him. Here there are no external distractions.
- This is often why we do not really have a breakthrough in waiting on God in a church setting – often we are conscious of what others are doing around us (distraction) or how others will perceive what we are doing (fear).

And then from John 4.20-24 we concluded with the thought that:

- it is not necessarily the place that is important where we get alone with God – there is not some physical place that is right or wrong. But that we are alone with God – whether that’s a private room, a mountain, the beach or on our bed
- it is the attitude of our heart that is important - ‘in Spirit’
- our motive must be pure - ‘in truth’.

Saying this, waiting on God should not be a dreamy, mystical sort of thing. God is portrayed in the Bible as a vibrant, powerful, real, active, dynamic personality. Meeting with Him should have an affect on our lives.

Waiting on God should be revelation to us:

- it should make us more aware of Him and His ways
- it should open up the treasures of His Word
- it should enable us to grow in understanding and wisdom
- it should change our heart and life

Waiting on God develops and grows out of two distinctly opposite experiences yet in God’s heart they find their connection:

- (1) God making Himself so real to us that the desire to meet with Him will not go away
- (2) A desperate sense of our need to meet with God in a deep, life-changing way

We see this in the case of the psalmist

#### **Psalm 42.1-2**

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?”

While God does not give us problems, trials and difficulties, He does often allow them to bring us to the point where become desperate for Him. Through these difficult times he prompts and draws us to Himself – to get us to the point where we come to Him and wait on Him for the answers.

Those who know the most about faith are often those who have walked through the greatest of difficulties and stayed close to God. Daniel had this revelation:

“Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out *great exploits*.” **Daniel 11.32**

Those who know God by staying close to Him will not be drawn away through flattery or any other difficulty or temptation but will be strong and come through with a great victory.

The *Tree of Life Version* says: “*but the people who know their God will stand strong and prevail*”

Let us turn our focus on some Scriptural guidelines to enable us to wait on the Lord. We have already touched on most of these in previous studies.

### 1. Laying aside

**Hebrews 12.1-2** tells us to “lay aside every weight... looking unto Jesus”

A weight is anything that will hold us back – sin, a distraction, temptations, our concerns. Peter writes “casting all your care upon Him...” (1 Peter 5.7). If we are going to wait on God we cannot do it with the pressures of concerns or any other distraction (whether that’s a telephone, somebody else or a thought). We need to be alone with God. Remember Jesus told us “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is in the secret place*” (Matthew 6.6) – shut the door, this isn’t just to stop people from seeing us but also that there are no distractions.

One of the biggest weights we need to be free of is sin – we must make sure that our lives are right with God. We don’t need to do lots of digging of self-examination for this because as we begin to draw near to God the Holy Spirit will point out the things we need to repent of.

We need to be holy to see the Lord, “Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” **Hebrews 12.14**. This verse follows on from the early part of the chapter – lay aside every weight, looking unto Jesus... pursue peace.. be holy. We become holy and righteous as we repent before the Lord -

“For He made Him who knew no sin *to be sin for us*, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” **2 Corinthians 5.21**

Jesus became sin for us so that we could become righteous. He took our sin so that we could take His righteousness.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*.” **1 John 1.9**

If we confess our sin, repent, He forgives us and cleanses us from ALL unrighteousness – that is we are made righteous

“And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness” **Romans 6.18**

Another weight we need to learn to lay aside is the influence of the enemy in our lives through temptation and any of his schemes. Not that temptation is wrong because it

isn't, but yielding to it is. However we do need to control the access that the devil has to our heart and mind by resisting him.

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” **James 4.7**

We cannot resist the devil in the flesh – we cannot use our mind or will to overcome him. The devil is not flesh and blood, he is spirit. We need the help of the Holy Spirit and spiritual weapons to come against him.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.” **Ephesians 6.10-12**

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” **2 Corinthians 10.3-5**

“And they overcame him [the devil, see verse 9] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony....” **Revelation 12.11**