

Waiting On God Series: 6

The Process of Waiting – part 2

Last time we began looking at some Scriptural guidelines to help us as we learn to wait on the Lord

We saw that as part of the process we need to:

- (1) Lay aside every weight and distraction

2. Taking time (making space)

Another big weight we must learn to deal with and lay aside is time. To wait on God we need to take time – we have said before, waiting on God cannot be rushed.

So, we need to allocate time in our busy schedules to wait on God on a regular basis. This requires discipline, we shouldn't let excuses or busyness dictate.

On 30 December 1997 while watching a film on the TV, the Holy Spirit prompted me to spend time with Him. I immediately left the room and went to the bedroom and got close to God. While I was waiting on Him the Lord spoke to me, during this time I vowed to teach others everything that the Lord revealed to me – in one sense, from this time, the teaching ministry was birthed in me. I had to make the time to spend time with God.

Of course waiting on God can be done anytime and anywhere because it is simply setting aside a time to seek and meet with God.

- This can be just a few minutes when we needed, or over a day or a longer period of time.
- At times it is valid to get away on a 'retreat' where we can give the time wholly to the Lord

Although not essential, many people agree the best time to get close to God and wait on Him is at the beginning of the day.

*"O God, You are my God; [Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.](#)" **Psalm 63.1***

*"Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my meditation. Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, [For to You I will pray. My voice You shall hear in the morning,](#) O LORD; [In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up.](#)" **Psalm 5.1-3***

*"Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He [*Jesus*] went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed." **Mark 1.35***

Meeting with God early:

- helps us be more God-aware during the day
- prevents us pushing this important activity into the background
- enables us to start the day right with Him
- allows us to get God's order and direction for the day

- invites Him to be in control of every part of the day and our lives
- keeps God as the central focus of our life and day

3. Finding the right environment

The next part of the process of waiting on the Lord is to find the right environment.

Waiting on God is not dependent on ethos or atmosphere, but finding a place that best suits us can help us get into the right frame of mind to meet with the Lord.

Find a place/situation in which your spirit can be at ease – it often helps to go to the same place for your times of waiting on the Lord and dedicate and consecrate those place to Him. Do not allow these places to be used for anything ungodly. This will help you settle quickly and get into the right attitude of heart to seek the Lord.

4. Training the mind

When we first start to wait on the Lord our mind will naturally try and wander and rebel against this. This is why we need to get into an environment and place where there are no distractions to divert our focus and waiting on the Lord. The more we renew our minds in this area the sooner we will notice the transformation taking place. This is what Paul was saying in his letter to the Romans:

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service*. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*.” Romans 12.1-2

We present ourselves before the Lord through waiting, but we don't get to that place where we can '*prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*' until we learn how to renew our minds.

There are lots of Christians that are so addicted to noise that they find silence to be 'louder' than the noise and feel uncomfortable when trying to be quiet. It is the same in our worship – we do not need to be loud all the time and just because there is a quiet time in our worship doesn't mean it needs to be filled with talking or singing etc. It is this aspect which many Christians need to overcome in order for them to get a breakthrough in their waiting on the Lord.

How do we renew or train our minds – with the Word of God. It is helpful to write down what God says to us so that we do not forget it later.

- We can then go back over what God has said, meditate on it, in order to obey it fully.
- It is also useful to go back to for encouragement when we are faced with tough times in our walk with God.
- We can use it to trace God's hand upon our lives – see how we've grown in God, His faithfulness to us and to make sense of what is happening to us.

There were times in the early days of us being in Malta that we were in desperate need both financially and spiritually. We didn't share these hardships with anybody in the church, we didn't even show it at services, we were upbeat and joyful in church but back in our apartment we were feeling broken and in tears. We thought we had made a mistake and worse missed God, his calling and timing. However, I had made a note of every Scripture that the Lord had used to speak to us in order to get us to the point we were at, and we began to go back over these as we waited on the Lord. After re-reading

them our hearts were encouraged and we were strengthened although the physical need hadn't gone away. This renewed our way of thinking, transformed us inside and then effected the external – the financial need was soon met (within days).

Meditation of the word in this way is essential to the training (or renewing) of our mind. This is what the Lord spoke to Joshua regarding his ministry and mission to conquer the lands of Canaan

*“This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe *and* do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely *and* have good success.”* Joshua 1.8 (Amplified)

When we renew our minds like this a transformation takes place inside us – we are like those of the Scriptures that met with God. We cannot meet with God and come away the same old person. Our waiting on God effects a change in us which begins to manifest in our external dealings