

## Waiting On God Series: 7

### The Process of Waiting – part 3

Over the last couple of weeks we have been looking at some Scriptural guidelines to help us as we learn to wait on the Lord

We have already seen that as part of the process we need to:

- (1) Lay aside every weight and distraction
- (2) Make time to be with God – allocate a time that is set apart for Him out of our busy schedule.
- (3) Find the right environment – where we are at ease before the Lord and not in a rush
- (4) Train and renew our mind with the Word of God – through meditation.

#### **5. Cultivating your spirit**

As we continue to add to this growing list we see another area that we should pay attention to is learning to recognise what stimulates our heart toward God. This is cultivating our spirit

We just mentioned and saw it last week that we need to make the time to meet with God. This requires discipline – even though the heart has a longing to commune with God, we shouldn't wait for that urge to spend time with the Lord. We must build it in to the daily routine and be disciplined in it, and allow God to inspire us.

How can we cultivate our spirit – or put another way, how can we activate our spirit to have an effective waiting time. Think of a plant – to cultivate it means to nurture and look after it by watering/feeding it, giving it light and warmth, getting rid of the weeds, keeping the pests away. This is what we must do with our spirit to make it effective

There are a number of things/ways that we can use to do this, these include:

- quietness (be still and relax – don't think that silence needs to be filled with noise)
- praise & thanksgiving -
  - remember God's past faithfulness – revisit your testimonies
- worship
- speaking in tongues - “[He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.](#)” 1 Corinthians 14.4, see also **Jude 1.20-21**
- operating other gifts of the Spirit (for self edification)
- prayer
- God's Word
- meditate on the Scriptures, and notes/journals you made from personal study/prayer
- read other good devotional aids
- change in routine – to shake yourself from lethargy [*becoming sluggish, indifferent, lack of enthusiasm or energy, abnormally drowsy or sleepy*]

## 6. Recognising and understanding the reasons for failed times of waiting on the Lord

There might be times when all our waiting seems to be of no avail. We do not experience that breakthrough or hear from God. Maybe we drift off into some other train of thought or an urgent need pulls us from our alone-time and demands a response.

When these things happen we may have the tendency to feel guilty about our failure, or think that we have let God down. This is not a time for condemnation – that's what the devil will do to you - condemn you, accuse you (that's how he is described in Revelation 12.10 "the accuser of our brethren, who accused them". At these times we need to just throw ourselves on the mercy of God, repent and come back to the Lord. He is not going to judge us because of it, He loves us and desires fellowship.

But knowing the warning signs, or recognising the things that could make our waiting on the Lord ineffective, is useful. These include:

- We are so dry spiritually and God seems so far away that we do not recognise the need to have any input from Him in order to get right with Him and be able to minister to others.
- Tiredness or fatigue prevents us from concentrating
- Personal burdens which cause us to be so pre-occupied with our own problems that we do not go to God
- Just using our quiet times as study periods. We therefore do not actually meet with God, do not listen to Him and do not make any room in our lives to enable God's specific word to us to have an effect (i.e. a dead word).
- Thinking we do not have the time or rushing our time of waiting on the Lord
- We are so bored with our quiet time that our heart is not in it
- Lack of discipline
- Discouragement, i.e. we are failing and it turns us from God, rather than to Him
- Wrong priorities
- Wrong motives
- Too much noise or too many distractions
- Disobedience. Failure to obey God when He speaks to us. We should have a deep desire within us to obey whatever God tells us to do during our time of waiting on Him. Many Christians do not hear from God because they are stubborn in the refusal to obey His commands and directives.

## 7. Being active and not passive

- If we want answers from God, we need to ask Him questions – especially about the things which are relevant to our day or life at the time.  
"Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near." Isaiah 55.6  
This word 'call' literally means 'to be vocal, to make a noise'. James says "you do not have because you do not ask." James 4.2
- Next we need to give Him some room so that He can answer. Too many ask the questions but don't hang around to listen. This is not necessarily a passive waiting time but an active – read His word to you. Faith comes by 'hearing the word' Romans 10.17
- We must be obedient to what He says if we want to continue hearing from Him. God will not waste words on the disobedient.
- The things which God repeatedly says to us are either (1) those which are really important for us or, (2) those things which we continue to not obey.

- Don't just limit your waiting on the Lord to asking Him questions – there is also a time to just be quiet before Him and allow the Holy Spirit to do whatever He wills. Time given to God is never wasted time, even when the pressure is on.

Let us wrap up this part of our study with some great promises about waiting on the Lord or seeking Him.

(1) “Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD...” Jeremiah 29.12-14

“But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.” Deuteronomy 4.29

Here and in Jeremiah we see that God promises us that we will meet with Him if we seek Him with our heart

(2) “Evil men do not understand justice, But those who seek the LORD understand all.” Proverbs 28.5

We get wisdom and understand, revelation and knowledge as we see the Lord and wait on Him

(3) “Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!” Psalm 27.14

“But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40.31

Strength will rise in our spirit, our hearts and our physical bodies as we wait on the Lord.

(4) “For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel: “Seek Me and live; But do not seek Bethel, Nor enter Gilgal, Nor pass over to Beersheba; For Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, And Bethel shall come to nothing. Seek the LORD and live...” Amos 5.4-6

These places were all significant, they were places of victory and blessing – God says don't seek these, seek Me and live!

(5) “For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth.” Psalm 37.9

“Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.” Psalm 37.34

This psalm declares that those who wait on the Lord will inherit the land/earth – this is enjoying the full benefits of our salvation – all that God has promised. We will be victorious over the circumstances. This is what God spoke to Joshua - “...you will be prosperous and have good success” (Joshua 1.8)

“But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.” Psalm 34.10

(6) “so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.” Hebrews 9.28

Our ultimate inheritance is the salvation of our bodies (rapture) – when Christ comes again for us and takes us home to be with Himself.