

Waiting On God Series: 8

The Fruit of Waiting – part 1

Over the next couple of weeks we are going to consider the benefits of waiting on the Lord, or the fruit of waiting.

We finished last time looking at some scripture promises. These are some benefits of waiting, we will go back over some of these as well as see others.

The first fruit we are going to see is:

1. Patience

Let us first make sure we understand this word patience. It is not the kind of patience where we just put up with everything and do not anything - this is a dynamic, godly patience.

There are two words used in the New Testament for patience:

- one means 'steadfastness or perseverance'
- the other means 'patience with the image of keeping up the pressure'

Let us go to a Scripture verse we looked at last week:

"Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth." Psalm 37.7-9

Here we are told to wait patiently for the Lord – this is being steadfast, persevering, keeping up the pressure and not quitting. If we wait patiently we will inherit the earth – we will inherit the fulness of our salvation

David lists these benefits in his psalm: *"Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."* Psalm 103.1-5

This fruit of patience is essential for our walk of faith, we need patience as we learn to trust God's word. When we hear the word and obey it, it will become very fruitful and productive in our lives as we apply the fruit of patience.

"But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience." Luke 8.15

2. Rest

Another fruit of waiting on the Lord is rest. Resting in God is drawing aside for a period of time to meet with Him

- To rest in God is to cease from work – this is resting from all effort, all difficulty and bringing them to God.

“There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.”

Hebrews 4.9-11

- To rest in God is to know absolute dependence on God, and seeing our lives and circumstances as He does.

“Truly my soul silently *waits* for God; From Him *comes* my salvation. He only *is* my rock and my salvation; *He is* my defense; I shall not be greatly moved. How long will you attack a man? You shall be slain, all of you, Like a leaning wall and a tottering fence. They only consult to cast *him* down from his high position; They delight in lies; They bless with their mouth, But they curse inwardly. Selah My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation *is* from Him.” Psalm 62.1-5

- To rest in God is to cast all our cares on Him, giving to Him all our difficulties, problems, worries, anxieties and concerns. When we rest in Him we humble ourselves under His hand.

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you” 1 Peter 5.6-7

3. Instruction

David declared: “Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You *are* the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.”

Psalm 25.4-5

This is the next fruit of waiting on the Lord – receiving instruction, learning His ways. The word of God comes to us as a result of waiting on the Lord. It gives us the guidance, insight and clarification we need for our walk as a Christian. As previously mentioned we need to know the strategies from the Word to be ‘successful’, to live victoriously and be fruitful for God.

““For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55.8-11

God says that His thoughts and ways are higher than ours – that means we need to download them. We do that through the word which He likens to the rain that comes and waters and refreshes the earth. As we wait on Him we download His instruction which makes us fruitful.

In **2 Samuel 5.17-25** we read that David took time to wait on the Lord to receive all the instruction that he needed for the battle against the Philistines. For both cases there was a different strategy that needed to be employed. He couldn’t assume that the instruction would be the same both times.

Joshua was told something similar – wait on the Lord through meditation of the Word – the instruction he received would make successful in his mission

“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)

God can use a variety of ways to speak to us - these might include visions, dreams, audible voice, still small voice, circumstances, inner witness ('hunches'), spiritual gifts or even other people. However, remember whichever way He uses, it will always be confirmed and backed up with the Scripture.

Many Christians are good at talking to God but terrible at listening to Him. So we find that waiting on the Lord

- helps us discover God's will for our lives
- helps us know what God is doing and why
- enables us to sort out our spiritual and time priorities before God
- assists us in our decision making – we can make decisions based on God's wisdom and revelation
- enables us to know what is on God's heart – particularly important for those who minister and preach

“Evil men do not understand justice, But those who seek the LORD understand all.”

Proverbs 28.5

We get wisdom and understand, revelation, knowledge and the ways of God as we seek the Lord and wait on Him

4. Strength and Refreshment

“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

His strength rises in our spirit, our hearts and our physical bodies as we wait on the Lord.

Waiting on God also

- increases our motivation to serve Him.
- Helps us receive the rest and reassurance we need
- enables us to regain confidence and strength - not in ourselves but in God
- recharges, renews and refreshes our spirits
- gives us the strength we need to face the challenges and difficulties that come against us
- helps us overcome the disappointments and discouragement when things don't go well