

Waiting On God Series: 9

The Fruit of Waiting – part 2

Last time we began looking at some benefits or the fruit of waiting on the Lord. We saw four fruits, waiting produces:

- (1) patience
- (2) rest
- (3) instruction
- (4) strength and refreshment

Let us continue to look at these fruits of waiting on God

5. Brokenness

You may not view brokenness as a fruit or benefit but what we are talking about here is not being crushed through circumstances or by people.

There is a more profound brokenness where we meet with God and our lives are changed and transformed. This is what Isaiah experienced in the Temple when he saw the glory of God:

“So I said: “Woe *is* me, for I am undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”” Isaiah 6.5

He was broken before God, but this encounter changed him and transformed him.

David knew this brokenness that come from waiting on the Lord.

“For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.” Psalm 51.16-17

Those who are broken God can use – He does not choose the mighty, the strong or the noble. He chooses those that are broken before Him – this is so He gets all the glory

“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.” 1 Corinthians 1.25-29

6. Revelation of God

“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 29.13-14

“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

In these two verses we see that God promises us that we will meet with Him if we seek Him with our heart. James puts it like this: “*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...*” James 4.8 As we wait on the Lord, we will certainly meet with Him because as we draw near to Him He draws near to us.

Those who wait on God also find that God acts on their behalf, working for them and through them, ministering to them, blessing them.

“*For since the beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him.*” Isaiah 64.4

“*For from of old no one has heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen a God besides You, Who works and shows Himself active on behalf of him who [earnestly] waits for Him.*” (Amplified)

God becomes bigger to us and His kingdom and reign become more firmly established in our lives as we wait on the Lord.

- The more we express our love for Him, the more we find that we love Him
- The more we worship Him, the more we will want to worship Him
- The more we thank Him for all His faithfulness and provision, the more grateful we will be for His working in our life.

Waiting on God also helps us develop an attitude of submission to God

“*Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*” James 4.7-8

As we draw near to God and wait on Him, we are submitting ourselves under His mighty hand. We acknowledge who He is and what He means to us.

Submitting ourselves to God by waiting on Him teaches us one thing about God – we just need to let Him be God.

‘Let go and let God’ - *we had this saying on a poster in our house*

This was the attitude of the prophet Elijah – if God is God then let Him be God. He challenged the people and prophets of Baal with these words:

“*And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him."* But the people answered him not a word.” 1 Kings 18.21

7. Changed Life

We have said it before we cannot come to the Lord in sincerity of heart and come away from His presence unchanged. This changed or transformed life is another fruit or benefit of waiting on Him.

There were many in the Bible who after an encounter with the Lord had their lives changed – these include Abraham, Jacob, Moses and Isaiah to name but a few from the Old Testament.

In the New Testament Paul had a life changing encounter with the Lord Jesus (Acts 9.1-22) - His life was turned around and rather than persecute the church, he became one of it's greatest evangelists.

Later he wrote:

"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

As we present ourselves to God we find that our lives are transformed as our mind is renewed. This word transformed is *metamorphoo*, the metamorphosis takes place as we meditate on the word of God – we change from the caterpillar into the butterfly.

Paul also talks about being changed from one degree of glory into another after we turn to the Lord.

"Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3.16-18

8. Holy Spirit

This verse shows us another benefit or fruit of waiting on the Lord - opening ourselves up for the ministry of the Holy Spirit

As we wait on the Lord we

- give room for the Holy Spirit to search us and work within our lives, transforming and changing us, taking us from one degree of glory to another.
- learn from the Holy Spirit as He reveals Jesus to us
"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you. "A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.""
John 16.13-16
- are filled with Holy Spirit afresh, and so are filled with the power and strength of God
"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." Luke 24.49

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1.8