

“They That Wait Upon The LORD”
Isaiah 40:28-31

Introduction: One of the hardest things a Christian will learn is the art of waiting. Phillips Brooks, a tremendous New England preacher, was frantically pacing the floor one day. A friend asked him why he was doing so. Brooks responded, “The trouble is that I’m in a hurry, but God isn’t!” Many times, we desire for our Lord to hurry up, but He does the opposite. Why is this so? Isaiah sheds some light on the issue for us as he gives us the picture of an eagle chained to a sundial. He reveals to us the blessings of waiting on God. The blessings are:

1. A New Empowerment v. 31- “renew *their* strength”
2. A New Exaltation v. 31- “they shall mount up with wings as eagles”
3. A New Endurance v. 31- “they shall run, and not be weary”
4. A New Enablement v. 31- “they shall walk, and not faint”

Body: It has been said, “A man is a hero, not because he is braver than anyone else, but because he is brave for ten minutes longer.” The secret to waiting is just a little bit longer. When we try to rush God, disaster is certain. Spurgeon once said, “By perseverance the snail reached the Ark.” Scriptures manifest to us certain people that knew how to wait, and others that did not. Those that waited God developed and those that were in a hurry faced tragedy. Let us learn a few principles from the Word that may help us during this period.

- I. The Danger of Not Waiting Isaiah 30:18
 - A. In Our Making- Abraham Genesis 16:1-16 (vs. 2-6)
 1. Times of Desertion- Aaron Exodus 32:1-6
 - a. The Desertion of Moses Exodus 24:12-15
 - b. The Delaying of Moses Exodus 32:1- “Moses delayed”
 - c. The Decision of the Multitude Exodus 32:1- “make us gods”
 - d. The Defilement of the Minister Exodus 32:2- “And Aaron said unto them...” (Reason: They would not wait for Moses.)
 2. Times of Darkness- Naomi Psalms 69:3
 - a. The Famine Ruth 1:1- “there was a famine in the land”
 - b. The Foolishness Ruth 1:1- “went to sojourn in...Moab”
 - c. The Fatality Ruth 1:3, 5 (Reason: They would not wait.)
 - d. The Finding Ruth 1:6- “the LORD had visited his people”
 - e. The Forsaking Ruth 1:6-7
 - B. In Our Marriage
 1. Wait for Someone Saved II Corinthians 6:14- “unequally yoked”
 2. Wait for Someone Similar
 - a. Similar in Color
 - b. Similar in Churches
 - c. Similar in Convictions
 3. Wait for Someone Spiritual

C. In Our Ministry- Apostles Acts 1:23-26

1. The Roads of Our Ministry

- a. The Selection of the Spirit Acts 13:2- “Separate me”
- b. The Sending of the Servant
 - (1) Timothy I Thessalonians 3:2- “sent Timotheus”
 - (2) Titus Titus 1:5- “left I thee in Crete”

2. The Results of Our Ministry

- a. “In Western Africa, it was fourteen years before one convert was received into the church. In East Africa, ten; in New Zealand, nine years before one baptism and two more years before one communicant; in Tahiti, it was sixteen years before the first harvest.” (Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations)
- b. “William Carey labored seven years before the first Hindu convert was baptized. In Burma, Judson toiled for seven years before he had one, once writing England: ‘Beg the churches to have patience. If a ship were here to carry me to any part of the world, I would not leave my field. Tell the brethren success is as certain as the promise of a faithful God can make it’.” (Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations)

II. The Duty of Waiting

- A. Waiting is for Recuperation Psalm 27:14
- B. Waiting is for Resting Psalm 37:7
- C. Waiting is for Revelation- Jesus Matthew 12:40
 1. Three Days Revealed Fulfilled Prophecy
 2. Three Days Revealed Faith in a Person
- D. Waiting is for Redemption Romans 8:23, I Thessalonians 1:10

III. The Development During Waiting Psalm 25:5

- A. Waiting Develops Positions- Joseph Genesis 50:19-20
- B. Waiting Develops Purity- Joshua Joshua 3:5
- C. Waiting Develops Patience- Job Job 42:5-6, 10, 12
- D. Waiting Develops Praise- Paul II Corinthians 12:7-9

Conclusion: As we view the Bible, we see various things that we do not need to wait for. Some of these are soul winning and obeying the Scriptures. On the other hand, there are a few things to wait on such as our speech (James 1:19- “slow to speak”). Therefore, we must conclude that there is a school of waiting that God allows us to go through. It is during this process that we learn to trust the Lord with our lives. Everything that God makes us wait for is for our good and His glory (Lamentations 3:25, Isaiah 64:4).

“He does not lead me year by year
Nor even day by day,
But step by step my path unfolds;
My Lord directs my way.

Tomorrow's plan I do not know,
I only know this minute;
But He will say, 'This is the way,
By faith now walk in it.'

And I am glad that it is so,
Today's enough to bear;
And when tomorrow comes, His grace
Shall far exceed its care.

What need to worry then, or fret?
The God who gave His Son
Holds all my moments in His hand
And gives them, one by one."
Barbara C. Ryberg