

WAITING ON THE LORD SERIES

THREE REASONS TO WAIT ON GOD

Isa. 40:28-31 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for 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.

This morning we are going to touch on 3 reasons to wait on God. Last week we have shown the purpose of waiting on God. There are 3 basic reasons that we can find as to why we should wait on Him. What does waiting on Him cover?

Lets look first in Isa. 64:4 *From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides thee, who works for those who wait for him.*

God acts on the behalf of those who wait for Him. I remember how a minister of God who read these verses on waiting on God said, "Lord I want to learn to wait upon you." So every night from about 12 onwards right up to one, he consecrated one hour just to wait on God. He would enter his prayer closet and kneel before Him saying, "Lord I wait for you." Many months passed and after many, many months one day he came to God and he said, "Lord this is the last night that I am waiting on you." And towards the end of his waiting he felt the presence of the Lord standing behind him. He did not dare to look around. He wondered what to

say, what to do. Before he could say anything he felt the Lord putting His hand on his shoulder. And he felt that the hand was wet. He said, "Lord why is your hand wet?" The Lord said, "I am weeping because many of my people did not wait for Me. They always rush ahead of Me. They always do things by themselves. And my people did not wait for Me." When he heard that he started crying and he started weeping. And that experience changed his whole life.

To Show God We Love Him

-

There is an importance in learning to wait on God. And one of the first reasons is that waiting on God is our way of saying we love Him. Waiting on God is coming into His presence to be with Him. Not just for what He can do. Not just because we want Him to do for us. But waiting on God shows that we love Him. We love to be in His presence. Its just like we cannot wait to be with Him. When we have finished our time with Him we go out and we finish all those things that are required of us in both our earthly duties and spiritual work. Or whatever else He asks us to do. Then when we finished we just cannot wait to get back to His presence.

If you stop waiting on God you have stopped loving God. Waiting on God shows forth that you still love God with your first love. The day you stop waiting on God you have stopped loving God with your first love.

The apostle Paul in I Cor. 2 quotes this very passage in Isa. 64:4 again but he has put an additional revelation when he quoted that.

In I Cor. 2:9 *But as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him."* He quoted the same passage Isa. 64:4 but this time he replaced the word *wait* with the word *love*. In Paul's understanding when he read the Greek bible Paul understood that when God say those who wait on Him He would act on their behalf. Paul understood that God was referring to loving Him. Those who wait on God are equivalent to those who love Him. Paul replaces that very word. He does not mentioned anything about

waiting in I Cor. 2. However he mentioned about loving Him. God will do great things for those who love Him.

How do we love Him? You love Him by loving His presence. By learning to come into the closet where you could be alone with God. If you just love Him with your work, it is at the second level. The first level is to love Him as He is, to love His presence.

Revelations 2:4 Jesus in talking to the Ephesians church said, *"Repent for you have lost your first love for Me."* You must understand the Ephesians church was one of the most powerful churches. It was in Ephesus that the whole gospel went out to Asia Minor. Paul was there for a period of about 3 years. Two of those years were in the school of Tyrannus. And in that church that brought revival to that whole land. This is the same church that the apostle John brought a message to. Its the same church that he said by the revelation of Jesus Christ to him to the church said that repent for you have lost your first love for me. They were zealous in their works. They did a lot of nice things but they don't love Him as they ought to. Rev. 2:2 Jesus said *I know your works, (they were hard working for God) your labor, your patience, you endure and that you cannot bear those who are evil.* They were righteous. They seek to purge unrighteousness from their midst. *And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them to be liars. And you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.* They have all these qualities that some Christians don't even have.

If you stop right there it looks as if these Christians are the first class Christians. These are the Christians that everybody should follow. However the Lord said in verse 4 *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.* You don't love me like you used to. The word *first love* is significant. It gives a picture of how when a person first fall in love. You love the presence of the one you love. You want to be with him or her all the time. That's the illustration that is used of the Lord. You just want to be with Him. Want to wait upon His presence. Make this a goal of your life.

Have you ever heard of David Brainerd? He has a book that is actually his diary on his work among the North American Indians. A lovely man of God who died early. He finished his work early, and went home to be with the Lord. There is one sentence in his diary that touches me very much. He mentioned that he makes it a goal that he wants to be the man on earth in his generation closest to the Lord. So that in his generation when God looks down God will say like He says of Job, have you considered my servant Job? He is the one that is closest to Him in his generation. Some of the people in the bible who are leaders of their generation walked the closest with God in their generation. Of course comparatively speaking to Jesus, they don't meet His standard.

Why did God deal with Abraham? It is because of all the people on the earth Abraham was the one who was the closest to Him. Why did God deal with people like Noah? In all the earth millions of them there was one that stood above the rest. Right now upon this earth there are nearly about 5 billion people. Lets say about one third of them are born again Christians. And among the millions of born again Christians there is one that is closest to God than the rest. These are areas where we should aim and run the race. Don't complete for the wrong thing, complete for the right thing. Aim for that, that in your generation you are the closest to the Lord. We all have to aim for the A1 for the Lord.

First love for the Lord. You show God how much you love Him but show Him how much you love to wait on Him. Just whether an hour or two hours just spending time in His presence saying Lord I love you. Here we are looking at reasons for waiting on Him. The first reason is waiting is loving. To wait on Him is to love Him.

To Show God We Need Him

-

The second reason is in Isa. 40 waiting on God shows God that we need Him. That sound very insignificant such a simple statement. But the basis of all of creation and

the basis of all of Christianity is that we are the creation He is the Creator we need Him. Although we need Him not everybody acknowledge we need Him. There are people in this world who are atheistic who don't believe that there is a God. So there are people out there in their action and in their mind saying I don't need God. I could do it by myself. Every place where God has intervened in the cycle of this earth there has been a man or a woman who has reached out to Him and said, "God we need you."

God never respond unless we acknowledge our needs. He only responds to our needs. That is the way He created us. He never created us to be independent by ourselves. He created us to be dependant directly on Him. However we have a free will and we don't acknowledge all the time that we need Him. That is among those who do not know Him. Even among those who know Him sometimes there is no acknowledgment that we need Him. We could do it by ourselves. We could do it by our intelligence. We could do it by our education. We could do it by our training. We never say, "Lord we need you." We become self-confident.

It is all right to have a good self-image. But it is wrong to be self-confident in a sense that you are self-confident without God. You should be Christ confident. That Christ in you could do it. When we know God fresh, we usually depend a lot on Him. For example, I see some people who are new in the Lord and I enjoy seeing them praying. Some of you when you began to learn to teach the word of God or you went out on your first evangelistic campaign, you really prevailed and travailed as you came before God and said, "God go with me Lord. I can't do it Lord please Lord you got to go with me." God loves that. God loves to hear you acknowledging how much you need Him. Sometimes along the way as that person gets more confident they don't come to God any more. Take it for granted God is always with me any way. So there is no expression of the need of God.

What about worship and song leading? I remember the first time some of you lead songs, you come before God and say God, "Please anoint me." You go on a 3 days and nights of fasting. Their dependence on God need to be felt all the time. However as you mature in the Lord you may be more confident in what the Lord can do through you. That is fine. However the heart felt dependence on Him must never be yielded. It must be maintained.

Every time I minister for God even though I have ministered for 13, 14 years and I know the bible at the back of my hand, yet before I minister I come before God and say, "Lord I need you. I need you as much as when I first started ministering. I need you even more O my Lord." That acknowledgment must be made. Without acknowledgment there is no grace given onto you.

That is the second reason to wait on God. By waiting on God we take our position before the Creator. How much we need Him. How much we depend on Him. How much we cannot do without Him. That acknowledgment must be developed all our life.

One ministry I admire very much is Kathryn Khulman's ministry. Every time before she minister her miracle services, she would be in her prayer closet walking up and down praying in tears. Some men of God have come nearby and heard her praying. She always prays the same prayer before her miracle service. She has seen thousands healed. Yet before each service she come before God and she say, "Lord if you don't go with me I cannot do it Lord." She said that before she went into the miracle service she died a thousand deaths. She had to learn what it is to depend on God. That key to maintain our dependence is done through waiting spending time waiting on Him.

Some times some of those ministers who have been very long in the ministry I notice they lost this. They just go about their ministry as a professional. They don't wait on God any more. Because they have preached many sermons thousands of time they could preach anything. But the acknowledgment is not there and the ministry also feels and sounds different. The knowledge is imparted because they have the experience but there is something that seems to be missing. What is that missing element? The love for the Lord does not come through.

When people share a word or when people teach or whatever people do you could tell whether they love the Lord. You could tell they are just sharing because of their

knowledge or they are sharing out of their love for God. When you have a love for God you inspire love for God in other people. You can't give to others what you don't have. It is like a resonance if you resonate with love for God. The resonance will be transported in an invisible way to others, inspires others to love God.

Waiting on God tells us we need Him. Jesus said in Jn. 15:5 *I am the vine you are branches; you abide in me my word abide in you; you shall bear much fruit. Without me you can do nothing.* The Christian life and the Christian ministry is interesting in that we have to at the time know that we can do everything in Jesus. And have full confidence of what He can do through us. At the same time we have to have full consciousness that we cannot make it without Him.

We have to combine these 2 principles together. On one hand is the acknowledgment that you are nothing. On the other hand is the acknowledgment that He is everything in you. When you could combine that 2 together, that's where the Lord could flow beautifully through your life. You are confident, you have a good self-image yet at the same time there is an internal softness that says, "I need you God." On the outside everything says He can do it Jesus in you can do it. The 2 are combined together beautifully.

The key to maintain this is learning to wait on Him. Learning to come before Him and say, "I need you Lord. I worship you I can't live without you." He wants us to acknowledge that all the time. That is something you cannot do for this year or last year. You have to do it fresh.

The first reason in waiting on God shows you love Him. The second reason shows the acknowledgement of your need. Every answer of God to His people in this bible has been when there is an acknowledgement of need. This is the most powerful principle.

I have a book "You Can Know God" After all his teaching on the presence of God,

the author conclude how you can get into the union with God in fullness. He summarizes with this one principle: That is every case where God has revealed Himself to people; it has always been when there was an acknowledgement of need. All through this bible the reason why Abel's sacrifice was acknowledged and Cain's was not was Abel recognized the need for the covering of the blood. The reason why Abraham was chosen was because Abraham realized his need for God. He reached out to the Lord. He needed the Lord. The reason why God answered the Israelites was because every time they have problems they cry to Him. He worked because they acknowledge their need. The reason why God sent Moses was because the Israelites when they were being persecuted for many generations the cry went out to God. Every bible incidence here has always been a revelation of God meeting the needs of men.

There are many types of needs, not just healing needs in our life. It says God shall supply all your needs. If you don't acknowledge your need you cannot acknowledge His supply. If you don't acknowledge that you need to be saved you cannot acknowledge His salvation. If you don't acknowledge that you need a healing you won't even be in a position to receive the Healer. If you don't acknowledge that you need a provision then He cannot be the Provider for you.

All the names of God have to do with a need in our life. Every name of God has to do with the need of men. And when we acknowledge our need we are acknowledging His name. We are acknowledging that God can meet our needs. That is the way God is. God has always been there to be God to human beings. Think about the word *God*. The word *God* means some one who will always be there when we need Him. Some one whom we cannot do without. The word *God* speaks about a being who loves to minister to our needs. The word *God* speaks about some one whom we are dependant upon. The very name of God in the English expresses the fact that He is a being whom we have to learn to depend on.

Men being the way he is don't like to depend on God. Our own nature always says you can do it without God. Humanism says the same thing. But Christianity teaches us to depend on God more and more. Solomon depended on God for wisdom. David depended on God to fight his battles. The Rock is my salvation He trains my hand for war. Noah depended on God for salvation from the flood. Abraham

depended on God to lead him. Every man of God depended on God. And after David died some of the evil things came out. But when the good kings came out they said Lord we need you. Why is it that when the good king like Hezekiah said Lord I need you and God was there. Two generations ago a bad king was there and God was not there. What brought God there? It was the acknowledgement of our need. God manifest when we acknowledge our needs. And the greatest need you can ever acknowledge is you need Him. You show that by waiting on Him. That is the second reason. Waiting on God shows our acknowledgement of God acknowledging our need for Him.

To Bring Us To God's Plans

-

The third reason is that waiting on God brings us God's plan. You can also put the third reason on waiting on God is to hear Him, to receive His plans and purposes for our lives.

Acts 13:1-3 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Symeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid hands on them and sent them off.

Waiting on God ministering onto the Lord tunes our spiritual ears to hear Him. Some of the things of God that we need to hear, His voice, His wisdom, His plans do not come in a split second. They take long hours on waiting on Him. There is no short cut in this area. Christians who have been brought up in short cut all the time have to learn the experience of just sitting and kneeling in His presence and ministering to Him in an attitude of waiting.

If you know God He will sometimes test out your very patience to wait for Him.

For example one of you comes to wait on God. You kneel down and the hours pass by. And you set a schedule of 2 hours where you have to decide to do something about some situation you are in. I am not talking about something that is normal. I am talking about something urgent that you just need to do. And you are seeking God for His voice on that matter. Time passed everyday; you wait on Him and as the days pass by, the matter gets more urgent. You can't stand it. In the end you went ahead and do what you can. What happened is you have not died to self. When you have died to self you could not even go out and do it yourself. But at the back of your mind you have not died. You say let me see what He says. He doesn't say anything I am going ahead. You haven't died.

The day you could come to God and say, "God if you don't do anything I cannot do anything either." That's when He answers. That's when you have died. And when you acknowledged you got nothing and you cannot do anything. You have died. And say, "God if you don't do anything I am finished." You have acknowledged a complete death of your own plans and acknowledged your need of Him.

Let see an illustration of people who tried to hear God and could not.

1 Kgs. 17:8-14 Then the word of the Lord came to him, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he arose and went to Zarephath; and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in you hand." And she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a cruse; and now, I am gathering a couple of sticks, that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." And Elijah said to her, "Fear not; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel, "The jar of meal shall not be spent, and the cruse of oil shall not fail, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth."

And he goes to this widow of Zarephath didn't even greet her. Didn't even say God

bless you. He says give me some water. And the widow goes and get water and as she was on her way to get water. He said by the way get some bread too. The woman said we got nothing. We only got a little bit of flour. She said today we are celebrating our own funeral. We had a little flour we intend to eat it and die. Elijah said give it to me first. Then the prophecy came forth that the flour shall not run out; the oil shall not run out. God actually sent Elijah to save them. God could have provided in some other way for Elijah. But the timing of God was so nice. He went when the widow was having her last meal. Had he came a bit late it would have been a different story. Think about it here the widow said we are having our last meal.

God had spoken to the widow and she did not hear. Look at chapter 17:9 God told Elijah, *arise go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.* God said to Elijah, "I have commanded, (past perfect tense) I have commanded a widow to feed you." Imagine when Elijah went there, there was no widow to feed him. The widow wanted to feed herself and die. That widow didn't hear God. If the widow had heard God, if that widow had waited on the Lord, she would have heard the Lord saying, *"Fear not I am sending you a man of God. Feed him and I will take care of you."*

She did not hear that. God commanded but she did not received. She was deaf to God. Why was she that way? She saw her needs, she saw her problems but she never acknowledge God could meet her needs. She never went to God to wait on God. That was her problem. That is the reason why it is so important to wait on God. God had commanded many people in many ways. God could have spoken to each one of you in many ways. But it is no guarantee that you will hear God if you didn't wait on Him. God could have spoken things in your life. If you have waited on God, God would have spoken to you.

However God's voice is heard only in the spirit realm. If you dwell in the natural realm or in the soul realm, you will not hear God's voice. Today our ears are not tuned to hear short waves or radio waves. Our ears can't hear that. Our nerves have no capacity to pick up radio signals. We need an instrument called a radio receiver. The radio receiver could detect and contact that invisible natural realm of radio waves. And convey it into electrical signals. And the electrical signals convey it into

sound waves. And we hear the sound waves. God speaks only in the spirit realm. If you try to hear God with your natural ear, you cannot. It is like trying to hear radio waves with your natural ear. Neither can you hear God with your soul; with your intellect; with your mind. God is a spirit and spirit speaks to spirit. You need a spiritual adapter.

Now that adapter can be built into you. That adapter is a renewed mind. Your mind was originally created to function in the spirit world. Today your mind has a remnant of that. I prove it to you. When satan tempts you, you hear it as a bad thought. When satan deceive or try to tell you a lie, you hear it as a thought, an evil thought, an evil imagination. Satan is a spirit being. A spirit being is affecting your soul; your mind; your intellect. Your mind was originally created to function as one with the spirit. But ever since Adam and Eve fell the mind was no more subjected to the spirit. It tries to goes on by itself. And in that way it is unprotected from the onslaught of the enemy. God wants to bring our mind back to function as a servant to our spirit man, so that our spirit could communicate to our mind. It is not enough just to receive in the spirit. Our spirit needs to communicate to our mind otherwise we cannot take action. Our mind is a part of our being of our soul that controls this present life. However our mind was originally made to flow with the spirit man.

Sometimes when you receive something in the spirit, but because you couldn't understand it with your mind you could not do any thing about it. I am trying to show the importance of the mind. Without a renewed mind your spirit cannot move. What you receive in the spirit needs to be communicated to your mind. You only are able to do what you understand or perceive. For example when God started working the gifts of the Spirit in my life I didn't understand the spiritual signals. And because of this my mind didn't understand it. I couldn't operate the gifts. They were virtually useless to me until God began to show me what those signals mean.

Let me illustrate and give a few examples. For example, when I lay hand and pray for people I used to get a bout of sensation in my hand. I didn't understand what it was for. So I couldn't make use of its manifestation. The spiritual communication

that God is trying to speak to me is not working properly because my mind didn't understand it. Only the day when my mind understands could it work for me.

That is why Paul prayed in Eph. 1:17-18 that the Ephesians may receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation that the eyes of their understanding may be opened. The Greek word actually says be flooded with light. Renewal of the mind is an important aspect. No matter how strong your spirit is, it still works through your mind. You can have a strong spirit and a weak mind. It is like a weak link in the chain. Your chain has many links, but it is as strong as the weakest link. It is just like the traffic system. You can have all the all the traffic coming down the highway. But if it is a 3-lane highway coming into town and all going into one lane, can you imagine the fantastic traffic jam that will be there. You can increase your highway to 7 lanes but right at the end they all come to one lane. Your highway is virtually useless.

In the same manner the strength of your spirit, the training of your spirit must be developed in proportion to the training of the mind. That is where the renewal of the mind comes in; and learning and studying the word of God. As your spirit develops you have a bigger channel to come through. And the channel is your renewed mind.

Continuing my illustration, the Spirit was trying to communicate some thing to me and I have that sensation in my hand but I didn't understand what it was. The Spirit can't do any thing unless I cooperate with Him with my understanding. Until one day I began to wait on Him and that is the key. I waited on Him and say Lord, "Will you please teach me what these are? There are no books on these areas." So I waited on God and said, "Lord teach me." Then the Holy Spirit began to show me that the sensation in my hand has to do with my spiritual detection. Every time somebody has a charm on his or her body, when I touch him or her that is the signal. When you understand the spiritual signals, then you can operate the gifts. So when I touch somebody I would say, "You got a charm there; remove it." If I have the spiritual manifestation without understanding it is virtually useless to me.

There are many things in the spirit that try to operate. Unless you understand the signals you can't operate them. Another one is that when I pray sometimes for people or when I visit some homes sometimes, I had a certain sensation on my mouth; a sort of a bitter taste. And I know it is not something natural. When you have a body manifestation the first thing you have to check is whether it is a natural cause. A smart Alec can come and try to cook up the meaning by saying I think that this person talks too much. The only way you can find that out is by waiting on the Lord.

That is the purpose of waiting to hear Him and the revelation begins to unfold. So as I wait on Him, He began to show me that the bitter taste in my mouth was a taste of death. So I know that the spirit of death is around. Either I have to confront it or God is speaking to me that that is going to take place. I was not sensitive to that in my early days in my ministry. As a result of that every time people call me, usually they call you at the last minute, so in my early days of ministry I would just pray, "God if it is your will..." A man of God will not pray that way. A man of God will always pray answers. That is what he is supposed to do. He can't go and pray, "God he has spend his time, it time to go." You can't pray that way. In my early days I used to pray, "Thank you Lord, thank you for your resurrection power." Some of them died and some of them got healed. So the next time when I go I have to sense it. When I have that taste I wouldn't pray any resurrection power. I will just pray for salvation, pray for peace.

How you operate the gift is also important. For example, God may reveal to you the sin of somebody in the congregation and you thunder, "You sinned." If you operate that way everybody will run from you. So when God reveal to you that way, you cannot say this person is going to die. Sometimes the knowledge that the Lord gives it to you, you have to know when to give it at the right time. Sometimes when I know that they are able to receive the fact of the person's death I would say, "God is saying that this person is going home." Later when that person goes home they are not discouraged because they know the Lord has spoken in advanced.

So these are some of the signals; there are much more. I am talking about the realm of the spirit is limited by your mind. The only way to receive more from God is by waiting on Him, hearing from Him and letting Him teach you. Open the way and

let Him speak to you through His word. That is the third reason for waiting on Him to hear His voice and He will tell you of many things. A lot of the things He speaks to me about how to do the work in the ministry, how to organize the church and lot of other ideas that He gave could not be obtained from books. Some of the ideas He gives are so revolutionary that we got to implement it a bit at a time. But all those plans and purpose and ideas come during times of waiting.