

**Passage:** Hebrews 5:11-14

**Title:** God's Warning of Becoming Dull of Hearing

**Summary:** In our passage today, the Lord gives a warning to a people who were once on-fire for Him and His Word, but now have become dull of hearing. The Holy Spirit had to tell these people, who no doubt thought they were doing great, "hey you are not doing as great as you think, in fact you are dull of hearing". Here is the great consideration for every one of us.....could we be dull of hearing of God's Word, and not even realize it? Today's passage gives us a spiritual health check, and if need be, a prescription and health plan on how to be well and stay strong.

*Hebrews 5:11–14 (NKJV)* <sup>11</sup> of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. <sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup> For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup> But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

God's Warning of Becoming Dull of Hearing Jesus (Hebrews 5:11-14)

- God has Much to Say to You (5:11)
- What He Says is Meant to Build Strength-upon-Strength (5:12-13)
- God Daily is Calling Us to the Lord's Gym (5:14)

### Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)* <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

### In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)* <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

To stay in the context of what is being said here in this warning, lets do a short recap of chapters 4&5

Recap What We Have Studied (Chapters 4&5):

- They Could Not Enter into His Rest (Because they Did Not Mix the Word with Faith (Hebrews 4:2)
- God's Word Reveals the Condition of Man's Heart (Hebrews 4:11-13)
- God's Throne of Grace is the Place to Do Something About Our Heart Condition (Hebrews 14-16)
- At the Throne of Grace God Awaits Us (Hebrews 5:1-10)
- Warning – Don't' Become Dull of Hearing (Hebrews 5:11-14)

They Could Not Enter into His Rest (Because they Did Not Mix the Word with Faith (Hebrews 4:2)

*Hebrews 4:1–2 (NKJV)* <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. <sup>2</sup> For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

As we have studied they (Israel when they came to face the giants in the Promised and feared them because they felt they were too strong for them – even though God promised to give them the Promised Land) did not enter into the rest of God, because although they heard the Word of God, they did not step out in faith believing the Word of God – that God is who He says He is, and will do what He says He will do!

Resting in the Lord, is mixing the Word with faith.

### **God's Word Reveals the Condition of Man's Heart (Hebrews 4:11-13)**

*Hebrews 4:11–13 (NKJV)* <sup>11</sup> Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

The Word of God will expose all that you are; the Word will leave you naked. Clothing hides all our faults don't they? They cover the cellulite, the scars, the sagging skin and muscles. But take the clothes off and it is all exposed. The Word of God is like that; we look so good to the world's standards, to man's philosophy and wisdom, but when we look at ourselves in the Light of the God's Word, we see our imperfections, we see how far we fall short of His standard. His Word exposes us for all we are - Sinners. His word leaves us very vulnerable, in a very helpless place - for a wise man, it brings us to the place of we need a Savior, and we got One, our great High Priest - Jesus Christ.

Why like a sword, why piercing, because sometimes it hurts, sometimes it is like surgery; but without surgery the cancer grows and there is no healing. I would never go in for a x-ray and try to hide or cover the infected area so the x-ray couldn't see it, no I wouldn't because I need it exposed so I can get a true diagnosis. The Word of God exposes us and shows us we need a High Priest, we need a Savior. That is why the study of the Word is so important, we need the correct diagnosis of our condition.

### **God's Throne of Grace is the Place to Do Something About Our Heart Condition (Hebrews 14-16)**

*Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV)* <sup>14</sup> Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Our High Priest just didn't pass into the Holy of Holies and made a sacrifice, He passed through it, into the Heavens - the ultimate Holy of Holies, the final Holy place. His resurrection and entrance into heaven proves that God accepted His sacrifice, Himself. And since the perfect sacrifice has been offered, the works of the High Priest are complete. He is seated, and no more is there needs for sacrifices. As we have mentioned, there was no seat in the Temple because the works of the priest were never done, but Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father for the work is done, and we can rest in that.

In verse 14, they are told to "hold fast to their confession", we see that the temptations were drawing them away from the Lord. The author says don't let it go, run to Him, not from Him.

Verse 15 - Jesus isn't a High Priest who is insensitive to us; He is a High Priest who can relate to everything we go through. Our desires, doubts, bitterness, anger, as all of these came against him, but none could move Him. There is no fooling God, everything is naked and open, there is nothing hid. He knows what is going on inside of us. Because of this we should cling to our High Priest because He understands us, He walked where we walked. He says I know all you are, and I still love, there is no reason to run or hide from me – I love you.

### **At the Throne of Grace God Awaits Us (Hebrews 5:1-10)**

*Hebrews 5:1–10 (NKJV)* <sup>1</sup> For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. <sup>2</sup> He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. <sup>3</sup> Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. <sup>4</sup> And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. <sup>5</sup> So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." <sup>6</sup> As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek"; <sup>7</sup> who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, <sup>8</sup> though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. <sup>9</sup> And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, <sup>10</sup> called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"

*Offer* – means to give continually. Here we see that the High Priest of Israel could sympathize with the people because he was a sinner just like them. He would have to make an offering for his sin. The contrast we have just read is that Jesus was sinless, though He could sympathize with us because he walked in our place. Jesus never had to make a sacrifice for Himself because He was sinless.

There was a calling by God to be the High Priest. Aaron's line was called by God to be the High Priest.

We will talk more about Melchizedek in chapter 7. But it is interesting, Melchizedek is only mentioned twice in the Scriptures, but the author expected us to understand about him.

What the author is saying is that there is an order of priesthood greater than Aaron's line, which came through the line of Levi. Jesus was through the line of Judah. Melchizedek came before Levi, and is a priest forever.

*(Hebrews 5:9 NKJV) And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, - Here we see perfect and eternal woven together. The Theme of this book, the words perfect, eternal and better used throughout, When you combine these three important words, you discover that Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings are eternal and they give us a perfect standing before God. The religious system under the Mosaic Law was imperfect because it could not accomplish a once-for-all redemption that was eternal.*

See where the author is taking us. He talked of bringing us into a rest, not of works, but through the final High Priest. We needed this High Priest forever if we are to be perfected. The Word of God will expose us all the way down to the intents of the heart.

### **Warning – Don't' Become Dull of Hearing (Hebrews 5:11-14)**

*Hebrews 5:11–14 (NKJV) <sup>11</sup> of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. <sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup> For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup> But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

All these wonderful things, yet these Hebrew believers were falling away, missing out on the rest, not mixing the Word with Faith. The author says to them and us, seize these promises!, seize these blessings, enter into the rest your High Priest has prepared for you.

Oh to hear God's warnings. Peter thought he had it all together, was so sure that he was right on target, and yet even after God gave him a warning, he still missed it. God loves us enough to warn us, and here is the third of six in this Book of Hebrews.

*Luke 22:31–34 (NKJV) <sup>31</sup> And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." <sup>33</sup> But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death." <sup>34</sup> Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me."*

### **6 Warnings:**

- [Warning 1 - Drifting Away: 2:1-4](#)
- [Warning 2 - Doubting: 3:7-4:2](#)
- [Warning 3 - Dull Hearing: 5:11-14](#)
- [Warning 4 - Departing: 6:4-6](#)
- [Warning 5 - Despising: 10:26-39](#)
- [Warning 6 - Denying: 12:14-29](#)

### **God's Warning of Becoming Dull of Hearing Jesus (Hebrews 5:11-14)**

- God has Much to Say to You (5:11)
- What He Says is Meant to Build Strength-upon-Strength (5:12-13)
- God Daily is Calling Us to the Lord's Gym (5:14)

### **God has Much to Say to You (5:11)**

**(Hebrews 5:11 NKJV) of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.**

The word here for “dull” is a word that means unsharp (which is counter to sharp) – which the Word of God is “sharper than a two-edge sword”. The have become dull in the word.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)* <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The word for dull also meant sluggish. That is a good description of once being fit and sharp to becoming dull and sluggish

Many of them had their initial conversion but were not maturing. The author said we have much more to tell you about Melchizedek and the things of God, but they weren't mature enough to understand them.

God had much to say to them, as He does us, He has some much that He wants to reveal to us, about Himself, our ourselves, about the world around us and the people in it. He has so much to say, and I pray we never stop seeking “more” of Him, and His Word, His Heart, and His Presence in our lives.

The Word is Living – and He would fill all the libraries in world speaking of all He did, just in His short time on earth. Imagine as He wants to speak to us about the before the foundations of the world, and the eternal life after this life, and more so, about His love for us;

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)* <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

*John 21:24–25 (NKJV)* <sup>24</sup> This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. <sup>25</sup> And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

### **What He Says is Meant to Build Strength-upon-Strength (5:12-13)**

**(Hebrews 5:12 NKJV)** For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

**(Hebrews 5:13 NKJV)** For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

Although there is an indictment of not progressing, and hence our warning, let be noted that as the commercial says, “Milk – It does the Body Good”. There is goodness in the milk of the Word.

*1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV)* <sup>2</sup> as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

God’s Word, is meant to take us from strength-to-strength (Psalm 84:7). It is why He puts His Word even above His name, though at the Name of Jesus every knee will bow, and tongue will profess. And speaking of Psalm 84, remember our past study where God promises that “no good thing will He withhold from us”.

*Psalm 84:7 (NKJV)* <sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion.

*Psalm 138:2 (NKJV)* <sup>2</sup> I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

*Philippians 2:10–11 (NKJV)* <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*Psalm 84:11 (NKJV)* <sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

*2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)* <sup>18</sup> 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.

*Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)* <sup>31</sup> 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.

But, even with all these things we have looked at, there is a danger for each and everyone of us to ..... become “dull of hearing”.

### God Daily is Calling Us to the Lord's Gym (5:14)

**(Hebrews 5:14 NKJV) But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

Key word in verse 14, "exercised". The word in the Greek is (gymnazo), it is where we get our word "gymnasium".

Remember, the word for dull (verse 11) also meant sluggish. That is a good description of once being fit and sharp to becoming dull and sluggish.

We have a calling here, the escape-protection-prescription to the warning, and that is to "hit the gym", the Lord's Gym!

It's time to hit the waits (you mean weights right?), no I mean "wait".

It seems like our prescription to ourselves or to others is always, "Read more of the word. Spend more time in the word. Pray more. Pray throughout the day." And all these things are good, but I think the greatest missing prescription is to wait. Simply be still. Psalm 46:10, "And know that he is God."

*Psalm 46:10 (NKJV) <sup>10</sup> Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!*

Psalm 37. "Rest in the Lord. Wait patiently upon him is the exercise of silence and just waiting upon the Lord to have this communion with him. This oneness, this fellowship with him.

*Psalm 37:7 (NKJV) <sup>7</sup> 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.*

*Psalm 27:14 (NKJV) <sup>14</sup> Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!*

Waiting upon God requires our entire being. It's not drifting into daydreaming, but it's an exercise that demands our greatest and deepest attention, our most alert frame of mind, and all of our beings. Sole attention on God, his voice, and our heart of open to him. This is not eastern mysticism. It's not transcendental meditation. It's not emptying our mind. As people will say in those meditations, it's connecting our whole being to the Lord, and it is surely one of the hardest things for us to do.

James 4:8 tells us to not be double minded. And that word means to have divided interest, in how easy it is to not be drawing to God and focusing on him when our minds or completely divided interest. Thinking on him, but thinking on 10 other things at the same time. That verse begins with, "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you." The Lord's always waiting for us to draw near. He waits, amazingly, the creator of the universe waits for us, but the call is for us to draw near to him. To wait upon him in this undivided attention of our hearts. Our whole being is the entering into deep spiritual connection with the Lord. It is connecting spirit to the spirit.

*James 4:8 (NKJV) <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

Waiting on the Lord is a time where I literally just sit, say, "Lord, draw near to me. Draw me close to you. Lord, that world may fall away, all my cares and everything I'm anxious about. I just sit with you. This is a place where I profess to you I trust you. I trust that you're going to show up. I trust that you're going to speak to me. I trust that you're going to take your word, and do what you say you'll do because you are who you say that you are. And I'm not moving on to anything else in my prayer time until I'm sure that me and you are connected. This beautiful chord that ties us together."

I most always start my prayer time with praise, before I enter into waiting. And the reason is, I want to make sure that I'm focusing on who I'm focusing on. And I might just start with praise, or Bible verse, or just attributes of God. Just As Jesus taught us to pray. "Our father, who art in Heaven." Jesus would start with the address and the location, and as we studied, prayer is spiritual. It's outside of this world. It's beyond the veil of the world. It's into the heavenly, and it's with the person, the person of Jesus Christ, who sympathizes and has compassion on us. And then it's an invitation of intimacy with him, and an invitation for him to do the work.

And I don't know if it's easy to separate praise and waiting. Sometimes they just end up flowing together. I don't even want to say that I praise, then I stop and say, "Now it's time to wait." I just know after years of praying, they just kind of flow together. That I know from a disciplined heart and walk with the Lord, that I need a time of just quiet before or the Lord, because it's so like me, and I'm sure like you, that I need to rush into productivity. Read my three chapters, pray my prayer list for my family and ministry. Enter into personal petition before the Lord for myself and my needs. And all those things, as good as they are, just turn into to dos and checklists when I can praise him and know him before, and then just wait upon him and know that I'm connected and tied to him. The rest of my prayer life is pure power, because I know who he is, I know that I am his, and I know that whatever I ask in his name, according to his will, he shall do. And he'll withhold no good thing from me, and he'll work all things together for good, even if there are hard times.

The whole point of prayer is to get God. That's the whole point. Because when we get God, we have it all.

Psalms 46:10 says, "Be still." And equally as important, and know God. Knowing someone intimately is impossible with limited attention, intimacy takes time and concentration. This is why these early moments of prayer need a careful silencing of the mind with all thoughts directed towards the person of God alone. ***Psalm 46:10 (NKJV)** <sup>10</sup> Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!*

When Jesus prays or taught us to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name," you can sense a connecting, a stillness to the hallowed one, the holy one, the uncommon one. Before He enters into prayer, supplication, requesting, confession, "Lead us not into temptation, deliver us from the evil one," and all those things, there is a place of the hallowedness. Waiting is coming and know that you are standing on holy ground.

***Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV)** <sup>9</sup> In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

So often we make prayer this drive-through thing. This hit-it-and-move-on thing. And as Moses came before the Lord, before He spoke, the Lord said, "Take off thy shoes for you are standing on holy ground." And the beauty of the invitation, we're being invited to holy ground, hallowed ground, where God speaks, connects in intimacy with man, because Jesus has provided the way that we can boldly, with confidence, come before the throne of grace and find mercy and grace and help in our time of need.

Not only does waiting prepare the prayer warrior for confession and prayer and intercession and petition, but it actually serves to snatch us away from the things of the world. To wait in silence is to bid farewell to earthly conversation and attention. It is the vital bridge that takes us from a carnal world to a spiritual world. The silent surrendering of the soul to God opens the door to the higher plane of His divine love and nature.

When Moses came down from that mount says that his face was shining. He met God face-to-face. Exodus 33:11 says, "And the Lord spake unto Moses face-to-face as a man speaketh unto a friend." Here we see a man who waited decades in the barren wilderness before catching a glimpse of the true glory of God with all the results of his lonely desert sojourn. Moses touched God and God, in turn, touched Moses, and it took time as Moses waited upon the Lord.

***Exodus 33:11 (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup> So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.*

So prayer starts, "Our father who art in heaven," place a praise of who He is, who we're coming before. Then we move into "Hallowed be His name." It's a place that's indescribable, but when you arrive there, you know you're there. It's so hard for me to describe what I'm trying to say, but you'll know you're there when you get there.

What I can say is I make sure I have time, enough time to wait upon the Lord. I don't squeeze my prayer time that I may have minutes. I set my whole life up for that time of prayer. When I go to bed, when I wake

up, the environment that I enter into, a place that everybody knows I'm entering into in the home, and I start with the waiting by saying, "Lord, I'm waiting." He doesn't need to know it. I need to know it. "Lord, I'm waiting for you." Psalm 46:10, "Be still now and know that I am God." Lord, I'm being still.

I don't allow my thoughts to wander and daydream, and when I sense them wandering and daydreaming, I say, "Stop." I'm being still before the Lord. It's a place that I start to cry out to the Lord, "I'm longing for intimacy with you." I whisper to Him, "I love you." It is pure beauty as you wait how you'll hear His voice back. "I love you. I cherish you. I treasure you."

I give the Lord my full attention. "Lord, I'm here. I believe there's power in this moment. I believe that what we do next is I open the Word and I read the Word and I pray that Word. Then I enter into interceding for my family and ministry and the world. Petition, "Lord, here is the need for me." That I know those things will come because I know that I've connected with Him. The cord has been tied and bound to Him. I'm at one with Him through that scarlet cord, the blood red-soaked cord. That the price has been paid, and I know that I'm welcomed before Him, mercy and grace, no judgment, boldly come the invitation to come. And I just wait.

Sometimes it takes on different forms. I'll just find words coming, speaking, songs coming from my heart. They're different than praise songs. They're the intimate songs, not singing Waymaker. I'm singing songs like Draw Close to You. I'm singing songs Here I Am to Worship You. Then back into this just being still and waiting.

And it becomes a time, where I sense the presence of the Lord in a special way, that I am experiencing His love, He speaking back to me. .... I love you Ray. The bible says it, so I believe it, that God sings over us, we His precious Bride (Zephaniah 3:17). In Genesis 24 it is a spiritual picture of God the Father sending the unnamed servant (picture of Holy Spirit) to find a Bride (picture of You and me, the Church), for His Son (Jesus); and when the Bride says "I do, I will", the servant worships (singing and praising) that the Bride said yes. And so a picture of God, He sings of you – He loves you, and He calls us to deeper intimacy, more of Him, and more of us with Him in love. Imagine that, God sings over you.

*Zephaniah 3:17 (NKJV) <sup>17</sup> The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.*

*Genesis 24:51–52 (NKJV) <sup>51</sup> Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken." <sup>52</sup> And it came to pass, when Abraham's servant heard their words, that he worshiped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth.*

Church, I believe we have lost the art of waiting in this fast-paced world that's ceaselessly screaming "Look at me, hear me." Information. Be informed. Phones pinging, flashing, Messenger saying, "Here's what is going on over there."

But God says, "Draw near to me and I'll draw near to you." God says be still and know that I am God. In Exodus 14, with their backs up against a Red Sea, Pharaoh and army closing in, that would be the time to get busy. Would it not be that would be the time to find weapons, to draw sticks, dig trenches, pick up stones, start to swim, build bridges and barges and boats? And you witness the Lord speak through His prophet Moses, Exodus 14:13. "Do not be afraid to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you'd see today you'll see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you and you shall hold your peace." And there's a place and we stand still and say, "Yes, you are who you say you are and will do what you say you will do."

*Exodus 14:13–14 (NKJV) <sup>13</sup> And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. <sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."*

Then we do move into the next place of prayer, verse 15. And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the children of Israel to go forth, but lift up your rod and stretch your hand to the sea and divide it. The children of Israel should go through on dry ground in the midst of the sea." The power comes and then the word mixed with faith after we stand still before the Lord. Know that He's God, then we roll up our sleeves. It's time to get together and get to work by faith and taking that step forward of all that He calls us to do.

*Exodus 14:15–16 (NKJV)* <sup>15</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. <sup>16</sup> But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

But, Church, I believe we had lost the art of being still. We try to go forward before we've been still, it becomes frustration or futility. We wonder why we keep ending up in the same place over and over. The strength in the wait room, oh, the power of waiting.

Oh, the beauty of Psalm 130, focusing in on verse five. "I wait for the Lord. My soul waits, and in his word, I do hope." The word "wait" means to "tie together". The word "word" means to be behind. I think John 1:1, in the beginning was the word and the word was with God, and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Every word of God that we read, He's behind it. He doesn't just speak it. He enforces it. He equips it. He anoints it. He's behind it. His word is true and sure, because the guarantee of his word is himself and the psalm says, and that's why I have hope.

*Psalm 130:5-6 (NKJV)* <sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. <sup>6</sup> My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning— Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.

*John 1:1 (NKJV)* <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Psalm 130 we read, "wait". The Hebrew word translated "wait" is kavah, which literally speaks of the extension of a cord from one point to another. What a perfect picture. God is at one point. Our hearts are at another. And it is as we wait for and wait upon Him that He keeps in contact with us.

*Psalm 130:5-6 (NKJV)* <sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. <sup>6</sup> My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning— Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.

Wait - Etymology (history of the word\_ . The etymology of the root qwh is not entirely clear. Following the lead of K. Ahrens,<sup>1</sup> some scholars suspect that the verb qwh represents a denominative of the primary noun qaw, qāw (Akk. qû). The noun means "thread, line," a meaning also attested in the OT.<sup>2</sup> The meaning "cord, line" is attested in Josh. 2:18, 21

When I wait for the Lord, I tie together with the Lord in your word. You're behind your word. I can trust in your word. I hope. I have hope because the tie that binds me is you and your word. How fascinating in Joshua chapter 2:18, We know it as the spies. They speak to Rahab and the promise that would come with the scarlet cord. They're told to bind it. It's the same word here to tie together, the bind yourself to it, tying yourself together with it. It's God who stands behind his word as he would speak to Rahab. This scarlet cord that you tie together, I stand behind this cord and therefore, the guarantee, the down payment of the word and the surety of it is God himself. We have this word that we're bound to, and bind to, and the word is dyed in a scarlet color.

*Joshua 2:18–21 (NKJV)* <sup>18</sup> unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home. <sup>19</sup> So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him. <sup>20</sup> And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear."<sup>21</sup> Then she said, "According to your words, so be it." And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.

It's a scarlet thread because it is colored and soaked by the promise of God sealed on that cross through the finished work of Jesus Christ who gave himself for us.

### **God's Warning of Becoming Dull of Hearing Jesus (Hebrews 5:11-14)**

- God has Much to Say to You (5:11)
- What He Says is Meant to Build Strength-upon-Strength (5:12-13)
- God Daily is Calling Us to the Lord's Gym (5:14)

### **Prayer**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)* <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*