

HANDOUT NEW YEARS DAY 2023: “THEY THAT WAIT!”

READ Isaiah 40: 28-31

The Hebrew Root for Wait is “Qa-Wah”. It means “to Wait, to Look for or *Hope with Eager Expectation.*”

- *Waiting with Expectation is the “Very Essence” of a Person’s Faith.* Waiting is NOT a Passive Attitude...*Rather it is an ACTION VERB!* **READ James 1: 2-4**
- Maturity in Christ Requires that We WAIT...Eagerly Expecting God to Do All That He Promised!
- Waiting on God Means...Trusting Without Answers to Prayer...Wondering Why the Wicked Seem to Prosper...And Having Desires Delayed and Hope Deferred.

Since God’s Ways are “Perfect,” We Can Trust that Whatever He Does and Whatever His Timing—It Will Be Perfect! As We Grasp That Waiting on God is Not Only Made Less Difficult It Actually Becomes Joyful.

Biblical Waiting is Not a Passive Activity...Rather It Is Demonstrated by Active Dependence Upon an Obedience to God. Waiting upon God is a “Spiritual Discipline” that we should Seek to Practice in Our Lives. Here are 7 ways we can practice Biblical Waiting.

1. ACKNOWLEDGING GOD’S SOVEREIGN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS. This is KEY to Waiting! Acknowledging that God is Sovereign and Nothing we are Presently Experiencing is Outside of His Eternal Decree and Direct Oversight. Ecclesiastes 7:13: *“Who Can Straighten What God Has Made Crooked?”*

- Our every predicament is of the Lord. And We Cannot Straighten what God Has Made Crooked.
- As much as we may want to “FIX” this Problem, We are First to Wait Upon the Lord.
- If it were Up to Us, We would Make an Even Bigger Mess of things. However, God will “FIX” things in a Much Better Way than We Ever Could. Sometimes the Most Difficult Thing for Us to Do is to Do Nothing at All—Nothing Except to Wait Upon the Lord.

2. WE MUST COME TO TERMS WITH OUR COMPLETE DEPENDENCE UPON GOD! Connected to the Doctrine of God’s Sovereignty is the Co-Reality of Our Complete Dependence Upon Him for All Things.

- It’s Natural to want the Freedom and Independence to do Whatever We want to Do.
- But the Truth is, We are All Dependent Upon God for Even Our Next Heartbeat.
- As Job rightly confessed, *it is the Lord who Gives and Takes Away* (Job 1:21).
- Our response to this reality should be to turn to the Lord in Faith and Wait upon Him.
- We should Not try to Fix things on our own, but come to terms with our dependence upon our good and sovereign God Lord and Trust Him to Help Us. **Proverbs 3:5**

3. WHILE WAITING, WE ARE TO SEEK SPIRITUAL STRENGTH FROM THE LORD!

- Our Helplessness Becomes Especially Obvious during Difficult times. It Is In God Alone That We Find the Strength to Face Life’s Battles. In the Psalms we find a Repository of prayers to God.

In Them We See the Relationship Between Waiting on God and Finding Strength in God:

- Psalm 33:20 *“Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.”*
- Psalm 27:14 *“Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; Wait for the LORD!”*
- This Often Quoted Psalm 23:1-2: *“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.”*

4. WAITING REQUIRES WE REFRAIN FROM NEEDLESS FEAR AND WORRY!

- No matter our situation, Scripture shows us that a part of waiting upon God involves avoiding being controlled by fear and worry. The Remedy of Fear is God Himself.
- Psalm 56:3-4 *“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?”*
- Additionally, Jesus instructs us to avoid worrying about our lives because we have a heavenly Father who takes care of us. **Matthew 6:25-27**

5. AS WE WAIT...WE IMMERSE OURSELVES IN GODS WORD!

- Ps 25:4-5 *Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.*
- As we wait upon the Lord, we are to Grow in Knowledge of him and His Commands for Us. Doing This...We Stay Close to God Our Father and Avoid Drifting into Error or Patterns of Disobedience.

6. AS WE WAIT WE EXPECT THE LORD TO MOVE IN OUR EVERY SITUATION

Another key side of waiting upon the Lord that we see in Scripture, especially throughout the Psalms, is the idea of Expectancy. Waiting upon God Means Expecting Him to Act.

- The Lord Saves Us from Eternal Condemnation; and He Delivers Us from the bondage of Satan and our own sin. This is God's Nature...To Save His People.

7. AS WE WAIT WE SEEK THE LORD THROUGH CONSTANT PRAYER

- In Acts chapter 12 King Herod "laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church." John's brother James, was killed by the sword. Peter, was arrested and imprisoned. In Verse 5 we find the Church in "Earnest Prayer." **And God Heard These Prayers.**
- *In verse 12 we see Peter freed from the Jerusalem dungeon with the help of an angel.*
- Our Waiting Should Not be that of Inaction. Instead, We should be Actively Praying for the Lord to Bring Deliverance. **When the Rest of the World is Panicking, the Church Should be Praying.**

Waiting on the Lord Includes: Trusting that He Is Sovereign. That We are Completely Dependent on Him. We Seek His Strength instead of Looking to Our Own Strength, Instead of Worrying We Stand on His Promises...Eagerly Expecting Him to Provide what is Needed Knowing God Will Provide!

VS 31: *They Will Soar on Wings Like Eagles.* The KJV Says, "*They Will Mount Up With Wings as Eagles.*"

- *To Soar on Wings like Eagles is to Rise Effortlessly. If you have watched any Video of Eagles, You know they Soar with the Greatest of Ease. They are Masters of Wind Currents and Up-Drafts.*
- Eagles do NOT Rise to Great Heights by Constantly "Flapping Their Wings". They Rise *Depending on a Source Other Than Themselves.* They Catch the Currents. Using God's Provided Thermals.

A speaker told of Watching a Little Sparrow Frantically Fly Across a Fast Moving Highway...Trying Desperately to Get to the Median without Getting Hit. When it landed, he said it looked Frazzled and Out of Breath. Then she Saw an Eagle take from a Cliff and Soar Across a Chasm. It Wasn't Panicked...It Wasn't Beating it's Wings. It Seemed to Barely even try...Yet it Rose Higher as it Soared.

The Eagle Mentioned in Isaiah 40 is a Great Picture for the Christian Life: The Renewal of One's Strength Comes When We Soar Through Each Day Waiting for the Lord to Provide the Currents Needed So We Mount Up and Don't Grow Weary!

- *This Picture Shows Us the Difference Between Relying on Our Own Efforts and Trusting in the Lord's Strength. Our God is the All-Powerful Creator; He Raises and Dethrones World Rulers; He Knows All about Every One of Us...He Knows Everything We Face, and HE CARES!*

This Promise to "Mount Up" LIKE AN Eagle is an Assurance of an Ever-Increasing Strength, Beyond Ourselves which Exceeds All Our Reasonable Expectations.

If We Go Through Each Day's Battles in Our Own Strength, We Will Become Exhausted...But as We Wait Upon the Lord...We Will Be Lifted Up by the Strength Of God the Holy Spirit!

"LIFE" POINT: You Can FLAP Through this Coming Year...Until You Are Exhausted... OR...You Can Trust Christ Each Day and Soar Effortlessly...FLAP OR SOAR THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

In this New Year, May We Choose to Trust the Lord. May We Choose to Wait on Him and let Him Exchange Our Strength for His. May We Choose to Soar like the Eagle...Rather than Try to Claw Our Way Up to the Heights by Our Own Faltering Strength.