

What Does It Mean to Wait on The Lord?

It means... (various responses came from the congregation)

- Seeing things God's way and not your own and having the right perspective (the Lord's perspective)
- Your perspective shapes your attitude.
- **You can't develop patience without waiting.**

James 1:2-4 New King James Version - Profiting from Trials - 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking

- **Waiting is being still.**

Exodus 14:13 New King James Version - 13 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.

- **Waiting is believing even if you don't get it in your lifetime.**

Hebrews 11:13 New King James Version - The Heavenly Hope - 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off [a]were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

- Waiting on the Lord means there is promise.
- **You can't go wrong waiting on the Lord.** The world thinks you must "see it" in order to believe. But, with God we must believe in order to "see it".

Psalms 27:13 New King James Version - 13 I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living.

Psalms 27:14 New King James Version - 14 Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!

Hebrews 11:6 New King James Version - 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- **Waiting means being humbled.** This means we accept God's sovereignty and wait on His timing.

Proverbs 15:33 New King James Version - 33 The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.

1 Peter 5:6-7 New King James Version - 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- **We can want what we don't need.** But if you move ahead of God to get what you want, you will regret it. So, wait on the Lord.

For example: Read the account of Abraham and Sarah who wanted to have a child but couldn't. God promised that He would give them a child from their union. They decided to take matters into their own hands because they got tired of waiting. They started to doubt during the waiting. God did fulfill His promise and they had a son called Isaac. But they had to deal with the consequences of their impatience for the rest of their lives. Read the full account in Genesis Chapters 15-17.

- **Wait, knowing that God wants the best for you.** Sometimes we must wait because we are not ready.
- **God may speak to you through men and women of God.** You need to take their words seriously and act on them.

2 Chronicles 20:20 New King James Version - 20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: **Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.**"

- We don't need to be distracted during the TIME OF WAITING.
- The devil doesn't waste distractions on people that are already off-course. The devil doesn't fish in his own bucket. No. The enemy wants to get people who belong to the Lord.

Matthew 7:13 New King James Version - The Narrow Way - 13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

- **Pay attention to what's going on in Israel.** Israel is the center of Bible prophecy.
- **Focus on the Lord.** Keep your eyes on Jesus. When people are easily distracted, it's a sign of weakness.
- **We are in a spiritual race.** One moment of distraction can cause you to lose out. Remember, it is the one who wins who is remembered.

What Do Distractions Look Like?

- **Distractions look like you and me.**
- **Distractions look like something you like, and you think you must have.**

1 John 2:16 New King James Version - 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

- **Distractions come when you decide to get into your Word** and get you focused on meaningless things like "reality T.V."
- **Distractions can come as frustrations that cause upset.** When you are upset you are not focused on Jesus. The joy of the Lord is our strength. When you are not focused on Jesus, you lose strength.

Nehemiah 8:10 New King James Version - 10 Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

- **You can't praise God and be depressed and the same time.** God inhabits the praises of His people. So, praise the Lord at all times. This is spiritual warfare.

- **Praise God when prayers don't get answered.** (Consider Job. All of the loss—children, business, health—in his life was actually a demonic attack from the enemy meant to separate him from being faithful to God. Job remained faithful anyway.)

Job 13:15 New King James Version - 15 Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.

- **Distractions look like good things that are nice to do for other people, especially other Christians.** Don't be distracted by lukewarm Christians who refuse to get their own oil. They want to siphon off your oil so you get weak, and have no intentions of doing anything with the scriptures, counsel and advice you give them. Now instead of being a wise virgin (Christian) you have become a foolish virgin. So instead of there being 5 wise and 5 foolish virgins, you leave the wise group and become foolish. So there are even fewer wise virgins than there were in the beginning.

Matthew 25:1-13 New King James Version (NKJV) - The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins - 25 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' **9 But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'** 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

- **Each man must bear his own cross. No one can bear your cross for you. We are to bear one another's burden's but not one another's crosses. Your cross is what God has called you to do.**

Galatians 6:1-2 New King James Version - Bear and Share Burdens - 6 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Luke 14:26-27 New King James Version - 26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

- **Know when to say NO and mean it.** (Don't let people break down your "No" into a "I might be able to at least do...") Doing something God didn't tell you to do is also disobedience and a distraction. Pray always and be Spirit-led in all things.
- **Distraction means you are not trusting the Lord. Get focused on Jesus and get back on track.** (Samson got distracted by Delilah and lost his anointing. He later regained it to do one more mighty work for the Lord. Peter was distracted by the waves of the sea and sank when he walked on water. But at least Peter got out of the boat. Who else can say that they walked on water even for a little while?)
- **The real war is to follow the "Laws of the Lord".** This is another phrase for the Word of God.

- **Sometimes your distractions can be your loved ones.**
- **Keep your eyes on Jesus. Don't entertain gossip, bad news, and drama.** Again, this is another way people syphon your oil. Your oil is your energy, passion, faith and endurance to finish strong which you receive from the Holy Spirit. You get oil by spending time with God in the Word, in prayer, in fasting, in praise and worship, and in fellowship.
- **Don't forget, we are in a spiritual war. Pray always. Pray without ceasing.**

1 Corinthians 15:58 New King James Version - 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Ephesians 6:10-18 New King James Version - The Whole Armor of God - 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the [b]wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [c]the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—