

Greetings, Everyone.

For how long? How long must we wait for the Promise, Lord? Jesus did not put a time frame on the wait. How frustrating can that be! Usually whatever we are awaiting we needed or wanted yesterday, or last week, or last year. It is somewhat easier to wait when we can gauge the time so we can pace ourselves, especially if the wait is long.

But, with the promises of God, we are as little children with no concept of time, and the wait can take seemingly forever. We have many questions. When will COVID-19 subside? When do the children go back to school? When do I go back to work? Do I want to go back to work? When can we take a real vacation? When will I get to hang out with my friends again? The list is endless.

Well, in the natural, waiting can be difficult, frustrating, worrisome, annoying, etc. I am sure you can come up with some choice adverbs that describe your process of waiting. During the process, do we moan, groan, complain, cry, whine, snarl, withdraw, feel sorry for ourselves? At times, maybe all the above, but we cannot set up camp in the negative emotional aspects of the process. We must wait on the Lord not only to endure the process, but also to flourish throughout.

Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord! (Psalm 27:14) 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. (Isaiah 40:31) So there we have it.

We cannot eliminate the wait, no matter how long it take.

If the sentence above seems out of place or funny sounding, it is. The letter "s" was omitted from the word "take." Read the sentence aloud without the "s" and again with the "s." Just like the letter "s" is essential to the word "take" in that sentence, so waiting is essential to our growth in God. Waiting very often prepares us to receive from God.

To wait means to remain or rest in expectation. Our wait must go beyond heart sickening deferred hope. Another definition of wait is to serve the needs of or be in attendance on. Here, is where we camp. As the scriptures above say, "Wait on the Lord." So, we will remain in rest and expectation as we serve. Herein lies our victory. If we replace the word "wait" with the word "serve" in the two scriptures above, we can enjoy another facet of waiting. How are we to serve the Lord? Serve with gladness. (Psalm 100:2) Serve by Faith. (Hebrews 11) By love serve one another. (Galatians 5:13) We serve by doing the two greatest commandments. "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:34-40)

By serving God and others through Him, we can focus our attention outward and prepare our hearts and minds to receive the promises of God. Psalm 27:14 and Isaiah 40:31 tell us to take courage. It takes courage to focus outward and not inward. Inward focus is more comfortable. However, the scriptures continue to say that in waiting (serving), we receive spiritual strength that transfers to natural tasks so we can remain in rest and expectation as we serve.

Abundant blessings,  
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