



WAIT

Desperately, helplessly, longingly I cried, Quietly, patiently, lovingly, God replied. I pled and I wept for a clue to my fate, [wait." And the Master so gently said, "Child, you must

"Wait? You say, wait!" my indignant reply, "Lord, I need answers, I need to know why! Is your hand shortened? Or have you not heard? By faith, I have asked, and am claiming your Word.

My future and all to which I can relate, Hangs in the balance, and YOU tell me to WAIT? I'm needing a 'yes,' a go-ahead sign, Or even a 'no' to which I can resign.

And Lord, You promised that if we believe, We need but to ask, and we shall receive. And Lord I've been asking, and this is my cry: I'm weary of asking! I need a reply!

Then quietly, softly, I learned of my fate, As my master replied once again, "You must wait" So, I slumped in my chair, defeated and taut And grumbled to God, "So, I'm waiting...for what?" (Continued pg.2, col. 2)



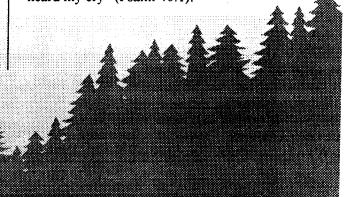
Are you waiting for something to take place in your life? Hopefully, the most important thing before our hearts is a longing for the fulfillment of the Lord's promise, "I will come again, and receive you unto myself' (John 14:3). The Thessalonians, "Turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven." (1 Thes. 1:9&10).

But in this scene each one of us must necessarily spend much time in waiting, whether at a stop sign, the doctor's office, train depot; for crops to grow, children to mature or on a telephone hold button. Even musicians have to wait when a rest symbol occurs amongst the notes they are playing.

Waiting periods have different purposes, for safety, attention, fruit bearing, rhythm, promise fulfillment or desire accomplished, and may be of long or short "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but duration.

when the desire cometh it is a tree of life" (Proverbs13:12). If we are in the "waiting mode", how do we wait? David could say prophetically of the Lord, "I waited patiently for the Lord. and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry" (Psalm 40:1).





The words, "wait on the Lord," for the believer, seem to be connected with praying about about some matter as well as giving Him time to act. A precious promise to me is Isaiah 40:31. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint."

Now, what if we have been given an exercise to pray over some matter, and time goes on with seemingly no results? Should we give up? In the face of continued rebellion against God, Samuel could tell Israel, "God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you." (1 Sam. 12:23). Again, we are admonished, "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." (Gal. 6:9).

As prayer is or should be the exercise of faith, to persevere in prayer with no immediate answer is a trial of our faith, which in God's sight is more precious than gold that perisheth (1 Peter 1:7).

If we become weary in waiting, we have a tendency to want to hurry along the fulfillment of our prayers by our own devices, without allowing God to have His way and time. Much like Uzzah, who, in an effort to steady the ark, "Put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it." (2 Sam. 6:6). Taking things into his own hands, even though it seemed to have godly significance, cost King Saul the kingdom. (1 Sam. 13:11-14).

Because of our restless complaining nature, we find waiting rooms of doctors, barbers etc. making magazines, television and even coffee available, and some "on hold" are exposed to music or periodic encouragements to hold on, while they wait. None of us rejoice in having to wait, for it seems wasting our time, but God said through Jeremiah, "It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord." (Lam. 3:26).

While God does not cater to our impatience, never the less, He may at times give encouragement to keep on waiting and praying, as the following personal experience may show. Having followed a young friend in prayer for a length of time, I awoke one day with a heavy burden on my heart for this person. Throughout the morning I prayed for this friend as the burden continued, until about noon when the burden lifted. Later, in comparing notes we found a decision was being considered and made at the time of this burden.

Now, we are not the only ones who have waited. We read in the Scriptures, "Therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you." (Isaiah 30:18). Think how

long He has waited to bless you, if indeed you have come to Him. Have you come to Him, or is He waiting still?

Waiting for Him,

Leslie L. Winters

Behold the Saviour at the door!
He gently knocks – has knocked before;
Has waited long – is waiting still:
You use no other friend so ill.

James G. Walton

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He seemed, then, to kneel, and His eyes wept with mine. And He tenderly said, "I could give you a sign. I could shake the heavens, and darken the sun. I could raise the dead, and cause mountains to run. All you seek, I could give, and pleased you would be. You would have what you want – But you wouldn't [know Mc.

You'd not know the depth of My love for each saint: You'd not know the power that I give to the faint; You'd not learn to see through the clouds of despair; You'd not learn to trust just by knowing I'm there; You'd not know the joy of resting in Me When darkness and silence were all you could see.

You'd never experience that fullness of love As the peace of My Spirit descends like a dove; You'd know that I give and I save...(for a start), But you'd not know the depth of the beat of My heart.

The glory of My comfort late into the night, The faith that I give when you walk without sight. The depth that's beyond getting just what you asked Of an infinite God, who makes what you have LAST.

You'd never know, should your pain quickly flee, What it means that, "My grace is sufficient for Thee." Yes, your dreams for your loved one overnight would [come true,

But, oh, the loss! If I lost what I'm doing in you!

So, be silent, My child, and in time you will see
That the greatest of gifts is to get to know Me.
And though oft' may My answers seem terrible late,
My most precious answer of all is still, 'WAIT'."

(Author unknown)

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