

WAIT on THE LORD

This message really goes with last week's message: Offended in Jesus. I'm going to dive right in and go straight to one of the most famous verses of Scripture that encourages us to wait on the Lord.

Isaiah 40:31 - but 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; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Pound for pound, an eagle wing is stronger than a wing of an airplane. Most eagles have wings that are rather long and wide, to help them soar and glide with less effort. At low speeds, broad wings can hold a bird up in the air longer than narrow wings.



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Bald Eagle

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Eagle / Speed



Golden eagle: 200 mph



Bald eagle: 75 – 99 mph



Red-tailed hawk: 120 mph

Eagle / Speed: Golden eagle: 200 mph, Bald eagle: 75 – 99 mph, Red-tailed hawk: 120 mph. Look at how fast that golden eagle can fly – 200 mph!

This passage is talking about those that will keep the faith no matter what. God is speaking of strength, speed and stamina in this passage. Because God is with us and upholding us (**Isaiah 41:10**), He will give us strength and we will be able to keep going and not wear out. God is compared to an eagle in Scripture. (**Exodus 19:4**) They are a mighty bird.

I know we don't always feel like we are soaring through life do we? But the truth is, we are still here, and each day is a gift from God. He is The One Who has kept us going this long.

Remember God told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a child. That child was Isaac and Abraham waited on the Lord, for that word to come to pass, 25 years. (**Genesis 12:2 and 21:5**) He and Sarah tried to make God's Word come to pass on their own and they botched things up pretty good. We are the same way, we are usually not very good at waiting on Him. We get impatient and try to take matters into our own hands and that's when things get messed up. God doesn't usually move quickly, He moves in His own way and in His own time. We must learn to wait on Him.

Have you ever waited 25 years on God? I haven't. I have waited 15 years and counting but haven't made it 25 years yet. Pastor Erustus kept on praying for his parents to be saved until finally one day just a few years ago they both gave their lives to Christ. Do you know how long he prayed? 25 years. Don't ever stop praying for that loved one to be saved or for your healing or whatever it is you are believing for. Keep on praying and wait on God. If it is in His will, it will happen.

John 9:1-3 - And as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man which was blind from *his* birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

It always makes me laugh that the disciples asked if he was born blind because of his sin. That would mean somehow he had sinned in the womb of his mother in order to be judged by God and his sin to be punished by being born blind. That is just ridiculous. We know that sin is connected with sickness because when Jesus forgave people of their sins He also healed them. **(Matt.9:5-8)** And sometimes He would say go and sin no more. **(John 5:13, John 8:11-13)** But can you imagine, this man lived his whole life blind so that one day he could be healed by Jesus and this would bring God glory. That was the only reason he was blind, for God's glory alone.

The people would know that this man was healed by God's power through Jesus and this would bring glory to God and Jesus. What if you are waiting for a healing and God is waiting for the right time so that He will be glorified. Will you wait on Him? He knows the number of hairs on your head, He knows you need to be healed. He has an excellent reason why you are not healed yet. Don't give up, don't get angry at God, continue to serve Him faithfully and wait on Him.

Acts 3:1-10: - Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *being* the ninth *hour* (3:00 pm). And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them,

expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted *him* up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God: And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

Of course the religious leaders made a big stink about this miraculous healing. They did not like the Apostles teaching the resurrection or preaching in the name of Jesus. When you keep reading that story, you come to chapter 4, verse 22 which states that the lame man who was healed, was over 40 years old. This was at the beginning of the Apostles' ministry and this man was certainly alive when Jesus walked the earth. Jesus healed everyone who came to Him seeking healing but God delayed this man's healing so that He could confirm His Apostles and show that even though Jesus could not be seen, His power had not diminished at all. This man had to wait for God's timing and it was all for God's glory too.

Will you wait on the Lord no matter what? Or will you give up on Him? Waiting on the Lord is the same thing as not getting offended in Jesus. I taught on that last week. And keeping the faith. Not getting offended, keeping the faith and waiting on God all go hand in hand. It means that no matter how long you have to wait for things to change, for the answer to come, for the breakthrough etc. You never give up, you keep living a righteous life and let God's plan and will unfold in your life.

You will get the break through, you will see the turn around, you will see the blessing, you will see the difference. If you will just hold the line and keep the faith and not walk away. Don't get offended if Jesus passes you by at The Beautiful Gate, He sees you. He knows right where you are and He knows your situation. He has not forgotten you. Wait on Him.

These next passages of Scripture are when King Saul was king and he was about to go to war with the Philistines. He was waiting on Samuel to come and make a sacrifice to God before they went to battle. This was a way to be sure to have God on your side in the battle. But Samuel was a bit delayed in getting there and King Saul thought his men would scatter away and so to rouse the men to war and keep them in the fight, he went ahead and made the sacrifice himself. He was not authorized to do this, it could only be done by God's priestly line or by God's prophet.

I Samuel 13:11-14 – And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and *that* thou camest not within the days appointed, and *that* the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which He commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought Him a man after His own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over this people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

God had already chosen David to be the next king instead of King Saul who had sinned against Him.

I Samuel 27:1 – And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: *there is* nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

Time had passed since King David was anointed to be king. He was on the run from King Saul for years and even thought Saul would kill him. He knew he had been anointed by God but he still had that thought that King Saul was going to kill him. There's a little bit of doubt there. If that happened then God's anointing on his life was for nothing. Don't we all have moments like that? I know I have.

King David waited about 15 years from the time he was anointed to be king until he actually took the throne of Israel. If God has placed something in your heart or spoken something to you, don't give up. Wait on Him. He's not a man that He should lie. **(Numbers 23:19)**

What if God answers your prayer but you don't see it in your lifetime. It could be something you hope and pray over your children's lives. Think of Abraham, he was told he would be The Father of many nations but did not live to see it but God did fulfill it. Will you wait on God even if you don't see it in this lifetime?

Notes from my KJ study Bible: The Jews of the first century believed that all suffering was a result of God's judgment on sin. This concept is shared by many Christians today when they attempt to answer the question, "Why do the righteous suffer?" The Scripture teaches that God allows temporal disasters to happen for various reasons – one of which is to lead people to repentance. Although God may punish sin with suffering, suffering may also be part of a testing or learning process. God also uses suffering, tests and trials to keep us dependent on Him.



Pastor Erustus and Pastor Sarah of our outreach ministry in Kenya. Pastor Erustus shared: God's servants go through many afflictions, challenges, hardships, pain, difficulties, tears and attacks. Just as the Apostle Paul in 2 Cor. 6:4-10, about suffering as God's servant despite many prayers to God but the answer and deliverance only remains with God. The same Paul cried to God to remove a thorn in his flesh but God just said His grace was sufficient. **(2 Cor.12:7-10)**

Timothy, Paul's spiritual son served God as a pastor but had a stomach problem and I believe Paul must have prayed for him to be healed but I always wonder why God didn't heal him. God works in our lives as His servants in ways we can't understand nor explain.

An old blind prophet prophesied over Pastor Erustus back when Pastor was a very young minister, just starting out. Almost everything that prophet prophesied has come to pass except for maybe 1 or 2 things. He was blind, God did not heal him but has used him greatly for His purposes. One of Pastor Erustus' spiritual fathers died of diabetic complications when he was just 60 years old. Before he passed, for some time he was having problems even being able to talk. He was used in a mighty way in Pastor Erustus' life and ministry. Both of these men were not healed and yet God used them in powerful ways to bring about His purposes and to bring Himself glory. Will you be offended if God doesn't move in your situation, or your health the way you think He should? Will you be offended in Jesus and forsake Him and leave the faith? Or will you stand in faith and remember that God loves you and He has good plans for your life inspite of what it looks like or how you feel right now. God can do anything, He is not limited in any way. He can turn the situation around in an instant!

Will you wait and stand firm on God's Word? When you have done all – stand therefore. **(Eph.6:13)**

Psalms 69:3 – I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God.

King David was a man after God's own heart. He was committed to God and to following God's laws and commands. He loved God. Here we read that King David was so worn out from crying and waiting for God. He was waiting on God and it wasn't easy.

The Geneva Bible says that though his senses failed him, yet his faith was constant and encouraged him still to pray.

If King David had to wait on God and even wonder why He wasn't moving on his

behalf yet or wonder where He was in the midst of his troubles, then so will we. We are not better than King David.

I want to read a verse from another of King David's psalms.

Psalm 40:1-3 - To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings. And He hath put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise unto our God: many shall see *it*, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

Look at what God did for King David who says that he waited patiently for the Lord. He delivered him out of what he was facing and blessed him and protected him. God gave him joy in his heart to sing a new song of praise to God for His grace and mercy and because people were watching his life, this would draw many to come to love and serve his God. Let's be a great witness for God like King David was. Let's wait no matter what and when God comes through for you it will touch those around you for God's glory too.

Luke 18:8b – (Jesus speaking)...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?

Will anyone be waiting for Him and on Him and still believing in Him?

CLOSING

What about when you have to wait on the Lord? When your prayers are not answered right away? Or they are not answered the way you want them to be answered? What if you don't get healed? What if you are in pain and it seems like God is not bringing relief or healing at all? What if your life seems to be falling apart and you wonder where is God?

Psalm 27:14 - Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

There is a song titled "Trusting Jesus" and I want to read some of the lines to you. Let it speak to your heart, this is how we are to be and live our lives while we wait

on The Lord.

Simply trusting every day, trusting through a stormy way, even when my faith is small, trusting Jesus that is all. The chorus is: Trusting as the moments fly, trusting as the days go by; trusting Him whate'er be fall, trusting Jesus that is all.

Brightly doth His Spirit shine into this poor heart of mine; while He leads I cannot fall; trusting Jesus that is all. Singing if my way is clear: Praying if the path be drear; If in danger, for Him call; Trusting Jesus, that is all. Trusting Him while life shall last, trusting Him till earth be past; Till within the jasper wall: Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Let's remain faithful like Job, through loss, health problems, struggles, disappointments, trials and all. Let's wait on the Lord.

PRAYER