

WHAT IT MEANS TO WAIT UPON THE LORD

Outline – May 2nd, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Dictionary Definition - WAIT - To stay or rest in expectation; to stop or remain stationary, till the arrival of some person or event.

Our concept of waiting usually concerns the period of time from the beginning of an expectation to when it arrives. Often we think of “Waiting upon God” as simply a quantity of time.

FIRST HEBREW WORD – QAVAH (Kaw-vaw)

Isaiah 40:31 - but those who 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.

Description of Waiting: means to look patiently, but it also expresses the idea of being bound together (for example by twisting). Example: Strands of rope becoming twisted together. In a spiritual sense the idea is waiting upon God, is to become bound together with Him. Becoming joined to Him.

When we wait upon God we are becoming more attached with God. Waiting is about relationship.

Psalm 40:1 - I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

Attitude in Waiting: Patiently comes from a Hebrew expression meaning in waiting I waited.

- It is continuous
- Not only how long you wait, but what you do and your attitude while you wait upon Him

Result of Waiting: Psalm 40:1 - Father God bends forward (placing his ear near my mouth to hear me) and hears the cry and brings deliverance.

Result of Waiting: Isaiah 40:31 - renewed strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles (strength and soaring freely, not bound), they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint. (proceed through life with strength and stamina).

Psalm 27:14 – Wait on the Lord; be strong, and may your heart be stout; wait on the Lord.

KJV - Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Attitude of Waiting: Courage (Be Strong) – continue in hope and trust in, take hold of God

Result of Waiting: Strengthening of our heart

Psalm 37:34 - Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.

Attitude of Waiting: Keep His way (walk in His path, do what He says). The more attached we become, the more we will walk in His ways. (Jesus said, if you love me you will keep my commandments)

Result of Waiting: Inherit the Land (Blessing).

SECOND HEBREW WORD – CHAKAH (Khaw-kaw)

Psalm 33:20 - Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.

Description of Waiting: to wait and tarry long, as well as gives a picture of being adhered/connected to something by piercing.

Attitude of Waiting: Our Soul (heart, inner most part of who we are) – it is not superficial, it is done with the most intimate part of who we are. It is not based upon convenience, it is committed and completely invested. It is deeply devoted.

Result of Waiting: God is our help and our shield (He will be our aid and He will be our defender)

Psalm 62:1-2 - My soul waits in silence on God alone; from Him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my refuge; I will not be greatly shaken.

THIRD HEBREW WORD – CHUL CHIYL (Khood, Kheel)

Psalm 37:7 - Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of those who prosper in their way, because of those who make wicked schemes.

Description of Waiting: To delay long, to wait long, and it may even appear strange that God does not intervene right away. It even speaks about twisting, twirling or writhing in pain as if there is a wounding.

Attitude of Waiting: Rest in the Lord (Be silent to the Lord). Be Still and Know that He is God. We are not to concern ourselves with what others are doing, especially those who seem to be doing evil yet prospering. Hoping in God.

Result of Waiting: VS 9 of Psalm 37 - but those who hope (wait) in the Lord will inherit the earth.

FOURTH HEBREW WORD – SHAMAR (Shaw-mar)

Psalm 59:9 - Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defence.

Description of Waiting: Why we wait – (to hedge/fence around someone/something with thorns), that is, guard; generally to protect

Exodus 15:2 - The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation.

Psalm 27:1 - The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom will I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom will I be afraid?

Psalm 28:8 - The Lord is the strength of His people, and He is the saving strength of His anointed.

Attitude of Waiting: Wait in confidence and faith in God (because of His strength). Don't wait in fear. Wait recognizing almighty God has placed around about us His hedge/fence of protection.

Psalm 91:4 - He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall find protection; His faithfulness shall be your shield and wall.

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Psalm 91:7 - A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you.

Result of Waiting: God is our defence. There is no need for fear.

FIFTH HEBREW WORD – DAMAM (Daw-mam)

Psalm 62:5 - My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.

Description of Waiting: To be silent (put on silence), hold peace, rest, be silent, stand still. To be silent and quietly wait.

Lamentations 3:25-26 - The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that a man should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Attitude of Waiting: Wait only on Him. Wait quietly (in silence). Waiting in faith (expectation).

Result of Waiting: God is good to those who wait for Him. God is eager to pour out His goodness upon those who wait for Him.

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS FOR WAITING UPON THE LORD

1 - WAITING UPON GOD IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP

Waiting upon God is not a spiritual discipline or exercise but an intimate activity of relationship and fellowship with the one we love.

2 - WAITING UPON GOD INVOLVES GETTING INTO THE CLOSET OF PRAYER

It involves getting into the closet of prayer and spending it with Him.

- thanksgiving (thanking Him for what He has done)
- praise and adoration (declaring who He is)
- worship (surrender)
- petition (making requests known unto God)
- praying in the Spirit

3 - WAITING UPON GOD INVOLVES GETTING INTO HIS WORD

God's Word reveals who He is.

Psalm 52:9 - I will give thanks to You forever, because You have acted; and I will wait on Your name, for it is good before Your saints.

Psalm 9:10 - Those who know Your name will put their trust in You, for You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.

God's Word builds our faith. God's Word builds our expectation. It builds hope.

John 15:7 - If you remain in Me, and My words remain in you, you will ask whatever you desire, and it shall be done for you.

4 – WAITING UPON GOD INVOLVES LISTENING TO HIS VOICE

It is very difficult to listen for the voice of God without waiting upon God. Many want to hear His voice, but are not willing to take the time to wait upon Him. One reason waiting is necessary is because it is in waiting that often the other voices get silenced so that we can hear Him.

Proverbs 8:32-34 - "Now therefore listen to me, O you children, for blessed are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and do not refuse it. Blessed is the man who hears me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

**Always bring a note book and pen into the closet so you can record what God speaks to you.*