

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

First Love Ministries, Inc.
PRAYER STUDY #112
WAIT ON THE LORD

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not faint or grow weary; there is no searching of His understanding. He gives power to the faint and weary, and to him who has no might He increases strength [causing it to multiply and make it to abound]. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and [selected] young men shall feebly stumble and fall exhausted; But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] shall change and renew their strength and power; they shall lift their wings and mount up [close to God] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint or become tired.

Isaiah 40:28-31 Amplified

Wait: quvah (kaw vaw') *to bind together* (by twisting); *to collect*, figuratively: *to expect, look patiently, tarry, wait*; sometimes translated as *to hope for, to anticipate*

Waiting in the Biblical sense does not mean to sit idly by doing nothing and seeking nothing. The kind of waiting that is referred to in Isaiah 40 and many other passages in the Word implies anticipation, expectation, listening and praying for the Lord *to do* something or *to speak* something in His timing, not ours, and to strengthen us and encourage us as we walk through life with its trials and tribulations.

Do not give-up or become discouraged when God tarries in His response. Continue to patiently wait on Him and expect Him to work on your behalf. Sometimes He delays the answer because he wants to extend the goodness of the final outcome: *Therefore will the LORD wait, that He may be gracious unto you, and therefore will He be exalted, that He may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for Him* (Isaiah 30:18).

Beast Images-When some people pray, and I believe this has scriptural precedence (Herod that old fox, the beasts of Revelation, Christ the spotless lamb, and Jacob's description of the tribes of Israel in Genesis 49 are but a few examples), they see beast images. In Isaiah 40:31, those who wait on the Lord are compared to the beast image of an eagle. The eagle is a very watchful and vigilant (*Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour*-1st Peter 5:8). They don't run from storms but rise above them (*If ye, then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth*-Colossians 3:1-2). They are not intimidated by anything (*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind*-2nd Timothy 1:7). They hunt their own food and don't settle for leftovers (ex. road kill) (Exodus 16 & Manna). Eagles have powerful vision (*Where there is no vision, the people perish*-Proverbs 29:18) and are fierce fighters (*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil*-Ephesians 6:11 & *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force*-Matthew 11:12). They protect their young by spreading their powerful wings over them (*He who dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust...*Psalm 91:1-4a). Fortunately, the Holy Spirit describes those who wait on the Lord as eagles and not other birds. Other bird images include peacocks, who are proud; turkeys, who are dumb; crows, who are dirty; and vultures, who are filthy. Eagles, on the other hand, are bold and majestic.

J. Vernon McGee tells us that Isaiah 40:31 has three degrees of power here which reflect the three stages of Christian growth: 1) The young Christian who mounts up as an eagle; 2) The adult Christian shall run; and 3) The mature Christian shall walk.

Consequences of Waiting and Hoping on the Lord

1. Our strength is renewed: *But they who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength* (Isaiah 40:31a).
2. We can see the goodness of the Lord: *I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the*

LORD! (Psalm 27:13-14) & The LORD is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him (Lamentations 3:25).

3. We will eventually see the Second Coming of Jesus: *Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand (James 5:7-8).*
4. We will realize His steadfast love: *Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon me, even as we hope in you. (Psalm 33:20-22).*
5. We will be blessed: *Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him (Isaiah 30:18).*
6. He will cause you to inherit the land and to see the wicked cut off: *Wait for the Lord and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off (Psalm 37:34) & For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land (Psalm 37:9).*
7. Waiting or enduring produces godly character: *More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope...(Romans 5:3-4)*
8. Our prayers will be answered: *I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told...(Psalm 40:1-7).*
9. We will see our visions come to pass: *I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint. And the Lord answered me: "Write the vision; make it plan on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its*

- appointed time; it hastens to the end-it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay (Habakkuk 2:1-3).*
10. He will deliver us: *Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and He shall save thee (Proverbs 20:22).*
 11. We will walk in integrity and uprightness: *Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee (Psalm 25:11).*
 12. We will not walk in shame or confusion: *Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for my sake; let not those that seek Thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel (Psalm 69:6) & Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed (Psalm 25:3).*
 13. Our hearts will be strengthened: *Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the LORD (Psalm 27:14).*
 14. We walk in obedience when we wait on the Lord: *Wait on the LORD, and keep His way (Psalm 37:34a).*

How Do We Wait?

1. **We think of the example of Jesus and consider what He did for us:** *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds Hebrews 12:1-3).*
2. **We stay still and undistracted by the noise and confusion of the world and meditate on the Lord and His word:** *Be still and know that I am God...(Psalm 46:10) & Mine eyes anticipate the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word (Psalm 119:148) & Blessed is the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law doth he meditate day and night (Psalm 1:1-2).*
3. **We praise the goodness of God in the land of the living:** *But thou art holy, O Thou who inhabitest the praises of Israel (Psalm 22:3) & Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him and bless His name (Psalm 100:4) & I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and*

He shall strengthen thine heart. Wait I say on the Lord (Psalm 27:13-14).

4. **We worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:** *Give unto the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him; worship Him in the beauty of holiness (1st Chronicles 16:29).*
5. **We have ears to hear what the Spirit wants to say to us:** *Give ear, O My people, to My law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth (Psalm 78:1) & Who has ears to hear, let him hear (Matthew 13:9) & For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn so that I should heal them (Matthew 13:15).*

AN EXERCISE IN WAITING ON THE LORD

Communion with God

By Mark Virkler

Base on Habakkuk 2:1-2

I will stand at my GUARD POST, and I will keep WATCH and SEE what He will SPEAK to me. Then the Lord said, RECORD THE VISION.”

1. “I WILL STAND ON MY GUARDPOST...”

Have a quiet place to wait before the Lord.

WAIT AND BE STILL.

2. “AND I WILL KEEP WATCH TO SEE,”

Look for vision as you pray.

HAVE VISION.

3. “WHAT HE WILL SPEAK TO ME...”

Recognize God’s voice as a spontaneous flow within.

LISTEN TO SPONTANEOUS INNER THOUGHTS.

4. “THEN THE LORD SAID, ‘RECORD THE VISION.’”

Write down the flow of thoughts and pictures within you.

JOURNAL.

The Lord desires to speak to His people even more than they desire to hear. We can hear Him best when we wait in silence and open our hearts and minds to hear what He desires to speak.

I Believe He's Coming Back
Rusty Goodman

High upon a mountain
From where he ascended,
An angel of the Lord declared that it would be.
He said don't stand there grieving,
For the one that you see leaving,
In like manner He's coming back for you and me.

I believe the time is nearing,
That we'll soon see His appearing;
Though we don't know the hour,
And we don't know the day,
When the saints of every nation
Will lose their gravitation,
And in the middle of the air be caught away.

CHORUS

And I believe He's coming back like He said.
I believe the trumpet's gonna sound so loud,
One day it'll wake the dead.
And in the twinkling of an eye,
He will split the eastern sky,
And I believe He's coming back just like He said.