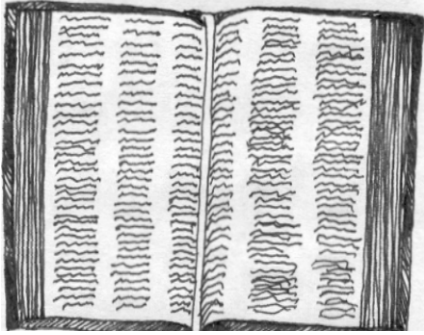


THE DISCIPLINE OF WAITING ON GOD

INTRODUCTION

We live in a world and in a society today that is so fast-paced and hectic. It seems that for the most part, we have been “conditioned” to expect and receive most everything we need or want, instantly and without reservation. When this doesn’t happen, we become impatient, frustrated and even angry. Many times we even direct this impatience, frustration and anger toward the very LORD HIMSELF!



The Scriptures Teach The Importance Of “Waiting On GOD”

Into this lifestyle and perception, the Holy Scriptures invade with a very important truth ... a **discipline** if you will. “**The Discipline Of Waiting On GOD.**” We call it a “**discipline,**” because for most of us it is almost an impossible principle to follow.

The phrase, “**Wait On The LORD**” (or its similar derivatives), is found thirty-seven times in the Bible and in seven different books. This reveals that this is a major theme throughout Scripture, and thus is to be a significant component of our personal, family and ministry life.

May the following study be used of GOD to bring about a greater understanding of this powerful “**discipline**”, which in turn will lead us into a greater and more sincere obedience to HIM.

I. Selected Scriptures Concerning “Waiting On GOD”

A. Psalm 25:2-3, 5, 21

“O my GOD, I trust in THEE, let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on THEE be ashamed, let them be ashamed which transgress without cause. Lead me in THY truth, and teach me, for THOU art the GOD of my salvation, on THEE do I wait all the day. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait on THEE.”

We have the word “*wait*” appear in this Psalm a total of three times. Each time it is the Hebrew word “qavah”, the most frequently used Hebrew word in all of Scripture (22 times), in relationship to our subject of study.

“qavah” = to hope strongly; to trust; to expect; to hope that a thing will be effected, and to wait steadily and patiently till it is effected. (Wilson)

Application: David, the author of Psalm 25, knew his GOD well. As he lived his life through the many different circumstances that he experienced, (both good and evil), he learned to “wait” on GOD. This was a strong hope and trust. This was a confident expectation, that even though he had to wait patiently for the desired end, he knew that it would be an eventual reality!

The prophet Habakkuk testified of this reality, when the HOLY SPIRIT spoke through him and said ...

“For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie, though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry.” Habakkuk 2:3



King David

B. Psalm 27:14

“Wait (qavah) on the LORD: be of good courage, and HE shall strengthen thine heart: wait (qavah), I say, on the LORD.”

Application: In our natural, human reasoning, we may come to the conclusion that if we have to “wait on the LORD” for something, this waiting will naturally produce fear and a weakening within us. However, this Psalm instructs us that to “Wait on the LORD” actually will “... strengthen (our) heart ...” if we respond with “... good courage ...”!

C. Psalm 40:1

“I waited (qavah) patiently for the LORD; and HE inclined unto me, and heard my cry.”

Application: Once again, David is our author, and he gives us an interesting sequence as it relates to our subject of study. Notice that as we first wait “... patiently for the LORD ...”, HE then hears our cry. The Hebrew word for “inclined” here means to “stretch or extend the heart towards an object in regard, favour, mercy, (and) compassion” – Wilson. What a beautiful picture of GOD’s concern for us as we wait on HIM!

David wrote in Psalm 37, that we should ...

“Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for HIM ...” Psalm 37:7a

The LORD has spoken through the prophet Micah ...

“Therefore I will look unto the LORD, I will wait for the GOD of my salvation, my GOD will hear me.” Micah 7:7

D. Psalm 130:5

“I wait (qavah) for the LORD, my soul doth wait (qavah), and in HIS Word do I hope.”

Application: We’re not sure who the author is of this Psalm, but under the inspiration of the HOLY SPIRIT, he uses the word “*hope*” (Hebrew – yachal), which means to “wait with hope.” Notice the object of this hopeful waiting ... the Word of GOD. The emphasis here is clear, while we are going through those times of waiting for GOD to move on our behalf, we must be spending quality time with HIM and “HIS Word”, allowing HIM to teach us what we need to learn!

This is a major theme from Psalm 119 ...

“Remember the Word unto THY servant, upon which THOU hast caused me to hope.”
Psalm 119:49

“... I have hoped in THY Word.” Psalm 119:74b

“... I hope in THY Word.” Psalm 119:81b, 114b, 147b

E. Isaiah 40:31

“But they that wait (qavah) 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.”

Application: The author here, of course is the prophet Isaiah. What he is emphasizing here are some wonderful results that come our way when we “... *wait upon the LORD* ...” Not just a renewed “*strength*,” but a supernatural “*strength*” likened to soaring as an “*eagle*” and walking and running without becoming “*weary*” or “*faint*”! (See also Psalm 59:9a)

Isaiah “Waiting On
The Lord”

F. Lamentations 3:25

“The LORD is good unto them that wait (qavah) for HIM, to the soul that seeketh HIM.”

Application: The author of these words is the prophet Jeremiah. As you study his inspired writings (i.e. – this book called Lamentations and the book that bears his name), you discover that he was a man of GOD who had to learn to “... *wait for HIM* ...”. It is here that Jeremiah equates waiting for GOD with seeking HIM. It is imperative that if we’re going through a time of waiting for GOD to move on our behalf, we must be actively seeking HIM through HIS Word and prayer!

G. Psalm 62:1, 5

“Truly my soul waiteth upon GOD, from HIM cometh my salvation. My soul, wait thou only upon GOD, for my expectation is from HIM.”

It is in this Psalm that we find two new Hebrew words for “wait” – “dumiyyah” in verse one and “damam” given in verse five.

“dumiyyah” = silence; quietly wait

“damam” = to be silent; to stand still

The word “dumiyyah” appears only one more time (Psalm 65:1), as it relates to our topic of study. The word “damam” is found just this once, although a slight variation, “dumam,” is used in Lamentations 3:26.

Application: The man who penned this Psalm was David. Within each of these highlighted verses, David addresses his “soul” as needing to “... *wait upon GOD* ...”. When Scripture speaks of our “soul”, it is referring to our mind, will and emotions. With this in mind, we can then see how important it is that as we are waiting for GOD to move on our behalf, we learn to “quietly wait” and “be silent” in that time of waiting.

There are two important reasons why we must learn “to be silent” during these times of waiting. First of all, so we can hear GOD’s voice through HIS Word. Often, this is the way the LORD chooses to give us HIS insight, HIS wisdom, and HIS direction. This is why it is imperative that we spend daily “quiet time” with HIM ... reading and meditating in the Scriptures, practicing “listening prayer,” and sometimes adding fasting with these disciplines as well. Second, learning “to be silent” while waiting is important for emotional and physical health reasons. For if we are anxious and become frustrated because of impatience, emotionally we will become depressed and maybe angry, while physically we may develop chest pains, acid reflux, headaches, insomnia, etc.

Sometimes We Must
Just Be “Silent” Before
the LORD So HE Can
“Speak” To Us

The prophet Jeremiah sums up this portion of our study well when he admonishes us in Lamentations 3:26 ...

“It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.”

H. Psalm 145:15

“The eyes of all wait upon THEE, and THOU givest them their meat in due season.”

The Hebrew word for “*wait*” in this Psalm is the word “sabar.” This word is found one more time translated this way, in Psalm 104:27.

“sabar” = to hope; to look for

Application: Once again, the author of this Scripture we're considering is David. This verse and its context is dealing with *"every living thing"* (see v. 16), having their needs met as they *"wait"* upon HIM. However, the HOLY SPIRIT speaking through David here, emphasizes that the LORD provides these needs, *"... in due season."* In other words, not when we feel that we need them, but when **HE** is ready to meet them. GOD, in HIS infinite and all-knowing wisdom, always provides **exactly** what we need ... **exactly** when we need it! Our responsibility is to seek for this same wisdom, through the Scriptures, through prayer, and other means HE has given us to **discern this timing.**

"Every Living Thing"
Needs To Look To The
CREATOR For Their
Needs To Be Met

Another portion of Scripture that would be profitable for us to consider here is Psalm 104:27-29,

"These wait (sabar) all upon THEE, that THOU mayest give them their meat in due season. That THOU givest them they gather, THOU openest THINE hand, they are filled with good. THOU hidest THY face, they are troubled, THOU takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust."

Within these three verses above, we discover a very significant progression in one of the ways of GOD. First of all, we are encouraged to *"... wait ... upon (the LORD) ..."* (v. 27a). Secondly, we are assured of HIS provision (vv. 27b-28). Third, oftentimes GOD will then *"... hide (HIS) face ..."* from us (v. 29). Why will GOD often *"... hide (HIS) face ..."* from us? To begin the whole progression over again! (See also Isaiah 8:17).

I. Isaiah 30:18

"And 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."

Here the Hebrew word for *"wait"* is "chakah." Eleven more times this word is used in the original Hebrew text.

"chakah" = to wait earnestly

Application: The prophet Isaiah authored these words of course. We shall learn throughout the remainder of this study that he was inspired by the HOLY SPIRIT to write about this subject several more times.

We discover within this verse a very important progression why the LORD often waits to act on our behalf sometimes ...

- A. "... that HE may be gracious unto (us) ..."
- B. "... (so that) HE will be exalted ..."
- C. "... that HE may have mercy upon (us) ..."

GOD's Supreme Desire
In Providing For Our
Needs Is So That "HE
Will Be Exalted ..."

According to this progression, GOD often waits to act on our behalf, sometimes until "the very last minute" it seems, so HE can give us HIS very best, and so that HE can also receive the most glory possible through HIS provision! This is why Isaiah exclaims, "*blessed* (i.e. – very happy) *are all they that wait for HIM.*"

II. Selected Insights From Contemporary CHRISTian Leaders Concerning "Waiting On GOD"

We have learned during the first portion of this study several of the powerful Scriptures that GOD has inspired HIS servants to record for our eternal benefit. Clearly and emphatically, we acknowledge that these are GOD's Words, and nothing that mortal man can say or write can equal them! However, since the canon of Scripture was completed with the writing of the Revelation by the Apostle John (about A.D. 96), other GODly men and women since have experienced the need, for a myriad of different reasons ... in a myriad of different ways, to "wait on GOD". They have recorded these experiences, and in many instances rich insights, that they have gleaned from them. They have been sent by GOD to bless, encourage and strengthen many. The following selected examples are hereby given, trusting that the LORD will bless, encourage and strengthen the reader as well. Some will be just short phrases or sentences, some more lengthy, then some will be in poetic form. With the insight or writing that is shared, the author and publication will be given if known.

A. **Andrew Murray (1828-1917)** **Missionary, Pastor, Author from South Africa**

"All the exercises of the spiritual life, our reading and praying, our willing and doing, have their value. But they can go no further than this – that they point the way and prepare us in humility to look to and depend upon GOD HIMSELF, and in patience to wait HIS good time and mercy.

It is in waiting upon GOD that our eyes are opened to believe in HIS wise and sovereign will. Then we will see that the sooner and the more completely we absolutely yield to it, the more surely HIS blessing can come to us.

Unfortunately, there can be a lot of praying ... and very little waiting on GOD. Why? Because when we pray we are often occupied with ourselves, with our own needs, and with our own

efforts in presenting those needs to GOD – thinking that if we find just the right way to present our needs, then we can make GOD hear and answer.

But when we wait on GOD, our first thought is of the GOD on whom we wait. We enter HIS presence, and we need simply to be quiet so that HE, as GOD, can overshadow us with HIMSELF. Waiting on GOD gives HIM time, in HIS own way and divine power, to come to us. And resting in HIM is nothing but being silent unto HIM, still before HIM – having our thoughts and wishes, our fears and hopes, hushed into calm and quiet in that great peace of GOD which passes all understanding.

Bow quietly before GOD. Remember who HE is, how near HE is, how certainly HE can and will help. Be still before HIM and allow HIM to stir up in your soul the childlike disposition of absolute dependence and confident expectation. Wait on GOD until you know you have met HIM.

Andrew Murray

And when you are praying, let there be intervals of silence – reverent stillness in your soul – in which you yield yourself to GOD in case HE may have something HE wishes to teach you or to work in you.

Pray in this way, and prayer will become so different. Waiting on GOD will become the most blessed part of prayer, and the answer to your prayer will be twice as wonderful because it is the fruit of your fellowship with the HOLY ONE.” (Taken from his book, “Waiting On GOD”)

“Be assured that if GOD waits longer than you could wish, it is only to make the blessing doubly precious.”

“One of the chief needs in our waiting upon GOD, one of the deepest secrets of its blessedness and blessing, is a quiet, confident persuasion that it is not in vain; courage to believe that GOD will hear and help; we are waiting on a GOD who never could disappoint HIS people.

‘Be strong and of good courage.’ These words are frequently found in connection with some great and difficult enterprise, in prospect of the combat with the power of strong enemies, and the utter insufficiency of all human strength. Is waiting on GOD a work so difficult, that, for that, too, such words are needed, ‘Be strong, and let your heart take courage’? Yes, indeed. The deliverance for which we often have to wait is from enemies, in the presence of whom we are impotent. The blessings for which we plead are spiritual and all unseen; things impossible with men; heavenly, supernatural, divine realities. Our hearts may well faint and fail. Our souls are so little accustomed to hold fellowship with GOD, the GOD on whom we wait so often *appears* to hide HIMSELF. We who have to wait are often tempted to fear that we do not wait aright, that our faith is too feeble, that our desire is not as upright or as earnest as it should be, that our surrender is not complete. Amid all these causes of fear or doubt, how blessed to hear the voice of GOD, ‘Wait on the LORD! Be strong and let thine heart take courage! Yea, wait thou on the LORD!’ Let nothing in heaven or earth or hell – let nothing keep thee from waiting on thy GOD in full assurance that it cannot be in vain.” (Taken from the book, “Streams In The Desert, Volume One”)

B. Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)
Missionary, Pastor, Author from Scotland

“There are times when you cannot understand why you cannot do what you want to do. When GOD brings the blank space, see that you do not fill it in, but wait. The blank space may come in order to teach you what sanctification means, or it may come after sanctification to teach you what service means. Never run before GOD’s guidance. If there is the slightest doubt, then HE is not guiding. Whenever there is doubt – *don’t*.

In the beginning you may see clearly what GOD’s will is – the severance of a friendship, the breaking off of a business relationship, something you feel distinctly before GOD is HIS will for you to do, never do it on the impulse of that feeling. If you do, you will end in making difficulties that will take years of time to put right. Wait for GOD’s time to bring it round and HE will do it without any heartbreak or disappointment. When it is a question of the providential will of GOD, wait for GOD to move.” (Taken from the book, “My Utmost For HIS Highest”)

“One of the greatest strains in life, is the strain of waiting for GOD.

“Watch for GOD’s answers to your prayers, and not only watch but wait. When GOD calls upon you to pray, when HE gives you the vision, when HE gives you an understanding of what HE is going to do through you in your Sunday school class, in your Church or home – watch. How many of us have had to learn by GOD’s reproof, by GOD’s chastisement, the blunder of conferring with flesh and blood. Are you discouraged where you are, worker? Then get upon this tower with GOD, and watch, and wait. The meaning of waiting in both Old and New Testament is ‘standing under,’ actively enduring. It is not standing with folded arms doing nothing; it is not saying, “In GOD’s good time it will come to pass” – that often means, “In my abominably lazy time I let GOD work.” Waiting means standing under, in active strength, enduring till the answer comes.” (Taken from the book, “Still Higher For HIS Highest”)

“Have we ever caught the full force of the thirty silent years, of those three years wandering in Palestine? Have we ever caught the full force of those ten days of waiting in the upper room? If we measure those periods by our modern way of estimating we will put it down as waste of time; but into the life of Our LORD, into the lives of the early disciples, were going to come elements that would root and ground them on an solid foundation that nothing could shake. The waiting time is always the testing time.” (Taken from the book, “Still Higher For HIS Highest”)

Note: The following two poems were written by Oswald Chambers, and are taken from the book authored by David McCasland, “Oswald Chambers – Abandoned To GOD.”

WAIT
(July 7, 1892)

Cease from disquietude,
Fret not, this is unto thee a preparation time;
Thou must be made in likeness unto HIM thou wouldest serve.
Wait, the diamond must be cut ere from its tiny facets
Flash the glory of the sun's pure ray.
Rain must descend,
Else from yon dull grey bulb springeth no sweet perfumed flower.
Be silent upon GOD, thy time for service has not come;
Patience, this waiting trial is by HIM who loves thee sent;
Be still – HE knoweth all, thou knowest that HIS will is best.

THE CONSUMPTIVE
(Edinburgh, September 14, 1896)

“Waiting – wistful still?”
Yes, just for tonight,
Tomorrow, with the light,
I'm sure to be all right,
Don't you think I will?

“Waiting – wistful still?”
Yes, just for today,
Tomorrow, I'll away,
Just now I'm forced to stay,
For they say I'm ill.

“Waiting – wistful still?”
Yes, just for this year,
Because they say they fear
The cost will be too dear,
So I'm waiting – till!

“Waiting – wistful still?”
Yes! From the still white bed,
Came whispered from the dead,
“Till to GOD you're led,
Waiting, wistful still.”

C. Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)
Pastor and Author from England

“Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD.” Exodus 14:13

“These words contain GOD’s command to the believer when he is reduced to great straits and brought into extraordinary difficulties. He cannot retreat; he cannot go forward; he is shut upon the right hand and on the left. What is he now to do?

Charles Spurgeon

The MASTER’s Word to him is “stand still.” It will be well for him if, at such times, he listens only to HIS MASTER’s Word, for other and evil advisers come with their suggestions. *Despair* whispers, “Lie down and die; give it all up.” But GOD would have us put on a cheerful courage, and even in our worst times, rejoice in HIS love and faithfulness.

Cowardice says, “Retreat; go back to the wordling’s way of action; you cannot play the CHRISTian’s part; it is too difficult. Relinquish your principles.”

But, however much Satan may urge this course upon you, you cannot follow it, if you are a child of GOD. HIS divine fiat has bid thee go from strength to strength, and so thou shalt, and neither death nor hell shall turn thee from thy course. What if for a while thou art called to stand still; yet this is but to renew thy strength for some greater advance in due time.

Precipitancy cries, “Do something; stir yourself; to stand still and wait is sheer idleness.” We *must* do something at once – *we* must do it, so we think – instead of looking to the LORD, will not only do something, but will do everything.

Presumption boasts, “If the sea be before you, march into it, and expect a miracle.” But faith listens neither to presumption, nor to despair, nor to cowardice, nor to precipitancy, but it hears GOD say, “Stand still,” and immovable as a rock it stands.

“Stand still” – keep the posture of an upright man, ready for action, expecting further orders, cheerfully and patiently awaiting the directing voice; and it will not be long ere GOD shall say to you, as distinctly as Moses said it to the people of Israel, “Go forward.” (Taken from the book, “Streams In The Desert, Volume One”)

“GOD often delays in answering prayer. We have several instances of this in sacred Scripture. Jacob did not get the blessing from the angel until near the dawn of day – he had to wrestle all night for it. The poor woman of Syrophenicia was answered not a word for a long while. Paul besought the LORD *thrice* that ‘the thorn in the flesh’ might be taken from him, and he received no assurance that it should be taken away, but instead thereof a promise that GOD’s grace should be sufficient for him. If thou hast been knocking at the gate of mercy, and hast received no answer, shall I tell thee why the mighty MAKER hath not opened the door and let thee in? Our FATHER has reasons peculiar to HIMSELF for thus keeping us waiting. Sometimes it is to show HIS power and HIS sovereignty, that men may know that JEHOVAH has a right to give or to withhold. More frequently the delay is for our profit. Thou art perhaps kept waiting in order that thy desires may be more fervent. GOD knows that delay will quicken and increase desire, and that if HE Keeps thee waiting thou wilt see thy necessity more clearly, and wilt seek more earnestly; and that thou wilt prize the mercy all the more for its long tarrying. There may also be something wrong in thee which has need to be removed, before the joy of the LORD is given.

Perhaps thy views of the Gospel plan are confused, or thou mayest be placing some little reliance on thyself, instead of trusting simply and entirely to the LORD JESUS. Or, GOD makes thee tarry awhile that HE may the more fully display the riches of HIS grace to thee at last. Thy prayers are all filed in heaven, and if not immediately answered they are certainly not forgotten, but in a little while shall be fulfilled to thy delight and satisfaction. Let not despair make thee silent, but continue instant in earnest supplication.” (Taken from the book, “Morning And Evening”)

“It may seem an easy thing to *wait*, but it is one of the postures which a CHRISTian soldier learns not without years of teaching. Marching and quick-marching are much easier to GOD’s warriors than standing still. There are hours of perplexity when the most willing spirit, anxiously desirous to serve the LORD, knows not what part to take. Then what shall it do? Vex itself by despair? Fly back in cowardice, turn to the right hand in fear, or rush forward in presumption? No, but simply wait. *Wait in prayer*, however. Call upon GOD, and spread the case before HIM; tell HIM your difficulty, and plead HIS promise of aid. In dilemmas between one duty and

**Elijah Knew How To
“Wait For As Well As
Upon The LORD”**

another, it is sweet to be humble as a child, and *wait with simplicity of soul* upon the LORD. It is sure to be well with us when we feel and know our own folly, and are heartily willing to be guided by the will of GOD. But *wait in faith*. Express your unstaggering confidence in HIM; for unfaithful, untrusting waiting, is but an insult to the LORD. Believe that if HE keep you tarrying even till midnight, yet HE will come at the right time; the vision shall come and shall not tarry. *Wait in quiet patience*, not rebelling because you are under the affliction, but blessing your GOD for it. Never murmur against the second cause, as the children of Israel did against Moses; never wish you could go back to the world again, but accept the case as it is, and put it as it stands, simply and with your whole heart, without any self-will, into the hand of your covenant GOD, saying, ‘Now, LORD, not my will, but THINE be done. I know not what to do; I am brought to extremities, but I will wait until THOU shalt cleave the floods, or drive back my foes. I will wait, if THOU keep me many a day, for my heart is fixed upon THEE alone, O GOD, and my spirit waiteth for THEE in the full conviction that THOU wilt yet be my joy and my salvation, my refuge and my strong tower.’” (Taken from the book, “Morning And Evening”)

“Success is certain when the LORD has promised it. Although you may have pleaded month after month without evidence of answer, it is not possible that the LORD should be deaf when HIS people are earnest in a matter which concerns HIS glory. The prophet on the top of Carmel continued to wrestle with GOD, and never for a moment gave way to a fear that he should be non-suited in JEHOVAH’s courts. Six times the servant returned, but on each occasion no word was spoken but ‘Go again.’ We must not dream of unbelief, but hold to our faith even to seventy times seven. Faith sends expectant hope to look from Carmel’s brow, and if nothing is beheld, she sends again and again. So far from being crushed by repeated disappointment, faith is animated to plead more fervently with her GOD. She is humbled, but not abashed: her groans are deeper, and her sighings more vehement, but she never relaxes her hold or stays her hand. It would be more agreeable to flesh and blood to have a speedy answer, but believing souls have learned to be submissive, and to find it good to wait *for* as well as *upon* the LORD. Delayed answers often set the heart searching itself, and so lead to contrition and spiritual reformation; deadly blows are thus struck at our corruption, and the chambers of imagery are cleansed. The great danger is lest men should faint, and miss the blessing. Reader, do not fall into that sin, but continue in prayer and watching. At last the little cloud was seen, the sure forerunner of torrents of rain, and even so with you, the token for good shall surely be given, and you shall rise as a prevailing prince to enjoy the mercy you have sought. Elijah was a man of like passions with us: his power with GOD did not lie in his own merits. If his believing prayer availed so much, why

not yours? Plead the precious blood with unceasing importunity, and it shall be with you according to your desire.” (Taken from the book, “Morning And Evening”)

D. Arthur T. Pierson (1837-1911)
Pastor and Author from the United States

“The workman of GOD needs to wait on HIM to know the work he is to do and the sphere where he is to serve HIM.”

“... that primary lesson that he who would work with GOD must first wait on HIM and wait for HIM, and that all undue haste in such a matter is worse than waste.”

“(GOD) says to all impatient souls: ‘My time is not yet fully come, yet your time is always ready.’”

“... continued uncertainty as to one’s course is a reason for continued waiting.”

“GOD is often moved to delay that we may be led to pray, and even the answers to prayer are deferred that the natural and carnal spirit may be kept in check and self-will may bow before the will of GOD.”

“There is a constant strain and drain on patient waiting which is a necessary feature of missionary trial and particularly the trial of deferred harvests.” (All of the above taken from the book, “George Muller of Bristol”)

E. George Whitfield (1714-1770)
Evangelist from England

“When GOD sets out to do a great work,
HE takes a long time in doing it.”

George Whitfield

F. George Matheson (1842-1906)
Pastor and Author from Scotland

“It was hard at such times to leave my work undone when I believed that work to be the service of the SPIRIT. But I came to remember that the *SPIRIT has not only a service of work, but a service of waiting*. I came to see that in the kingdom of CHRIST there are not only times for action, but times in which to forbear acting. I came to learn that the desert place apart is often the most useful spot in the varied life of man – more rich in harvest than the seasons in which the corn and wine abounded. I have been taught to thank the BLESSED SPIRIT that many a darling Bithynia had to be left unvisited by me.

And so, THOU DIVINE SPIRIT, would I still be led by THEE. Still there come to me disappointed prospects of usefulness. Today the door seems to open into life and work for THEE; tomorrow it closes before me just as I am about to enter.

Teach me to see another door in the very inaction of the hour. Help me to find in the very prohibition thus to serve THEE, a new opening into THY service. Inspire me with the knowledge that a man may at times be called to do his duty by doing nothing, to work by keeping still, to serve by waiting. When I remember the power of the ‘still small voice,’ I shall not murmur that sometimes the SPIRIT suffers me *not* to go.”

“There are times when things look very dark to me – so dark that I have to wait even for hope. It is bad enough to wait *in* hope, to see no glimmer of a prospect and yet refuse to despair; to have nothing but night before the casement and yet to keep the casement open for possible stars; to have a vacant place in my heart and yet to allow that place to be filled by no inferior presence – that is the grandest patience in the universe. It is Job in the tempest; it is Abraham on the road to Moriah; it is Moses in the desert of Midian; it is the SON OF MAN in the Garden of Gethsemane.

**JESUS “Waiting On
HIS HEAVENLY
FATHER” In The
Garden Of
Gethsemane**

There is no patience so hard as that which endures, ‘as seeing him who is invisible’; it is the waiting for hope.

THOU hast made waiting beautiful; THOU hast made patience divine. THOU hast taught us that the FATHER’s will may be received just because it *is* HIS will. THOU hast revealed to us that a soul may see nothing but sorrow in the cup and yet may reuse to let it go, convinced that the eye of the FATHER sees further than its own.

Give me this divine power of THINE, the power of Gethsemane. Give me the power to wait for hope itself, to look out from the casement where there are no stars. Give me the power, when the very joy that was set before me is gone, to stand unconquered amid the night, and say, ‘To the eye of my FATHER it is perhaps shining still.’ I shall reach the climax of strength when I have learned to wait for hope.” (Taken from the book, “Streams In The Desert, Volume One”)

**G. J. Danson Smith (? - ?)
Poet from England**

Waiting! Yes, patiently waiting!
Till next steps made plain shall be;
To hear, with the inner hearing,
The VOICE that will call for me.

Waiting! Yes, hopefully waiting!
With hope that need not grow dim;
The MASTER is pledged to guide me,
And my eyes are unto HIM.

Waiting! Expectantly waiting!
Perhaps it may be today
The MASTER will quickly open
The gate to my future way.

Waiting! Yes, waiting! still waiting!
I know, though I've waited long,
That, while HE withholds HIS purpose,
HIS waiting cannot be wrong.

Waiting! Yes, waiting! still waiting!
The MASTER will not be late:
HE knoweth that I am waiting
For HIM to unlatch the gate.

(Taken from the book, "Streams In The Desert, Volume One")

Sit still, my daughter! Just sit calmly still!
Not deem these days – these waiting days – as ill!
The ONE who loves thee best, WHO plans thy way,
Hath not forgotten thy great need today!
And, if HE waits, 'tis sure HE waits to prove
To thee, HIS tender child, HIS heart's deep love.

Sit still, my daughter! Just sit calmly still!
Thou longest much to know thy dear LORD's will!
While anxious thoughts would almost steal their way
Corrodingly within, because of HIS delay –
Persuade thyself in simply faith to rest
That HE, WHO knows and loves, will do the best.

**The Encouraging And
Inspiring Devotional,
"Streams In The
Desert, Volume One"**

Sit still, my daughter! Just sit calmly still!
Nor move one step, not even one, until
HIS way hath opened. Then, ah then, how sweet!
How glad thy heart, and then how swift thy feet
They inner being then, ah then, how strong!
And waiting days not counted then too long.

Sit still, my daughter! Just sit calmly still!
What higher service could'st thou for HIM fill?
'Tis hard! ah yes! But choicest things must cost!
For lack of losing all how much is lost!
'Tis hard, 'tis true! But then – HE giveth grace
To count the hardest spot the sweetest place.

(Taken from the book, "Streams In The Desert, Volume One")

H. Horatio Bonar (1808-1889) **Pastor and Author from Scotland**

"The LORD, when HE hath given great faith, hath been known to try it by long delayings. HE has suffered HIS servants' voices to echo in their ears as from a brazen sky. They have knocked at the golden gate, but it has remained unmovable, as though it were rusted upon its hinges. Like Jeremiah, they have cried, '*THOU hast covered THYSELF with a cloud, that our prayer should not pass through.*' Thus have true saints continued long in patient waiting without reply, not because their prayers were not vehement, nor because they were unaccepted, but because it so

pleased HIM WHO is Sovereign, and WHO gives according to HIS own pleasure. If it pleases HIM to bid our patience exercise itself, shall HE not do as HE will with HIS own!

No prayer is lost. Praying breath was never spent in vain. There is no such thing as prayer unanswered or unnoticed by GOD, and some things that we count refusals or denials are simply delays.” (Taken from the book, “Streams In The Desert, Volume One”)

I. Alexander McClaren (1826-1910)
Pastor and Author from Scotland

“CHRIST sometimes delays HIS help that HE may try our faith and quicken our prayers. The boat may be covered with the waves, and HE sleeps on; but HE will wake up before it sinks. HE sleeps, but HE never oversleeps; and there is no ‘too lates’ with HIM.” (Taken from the book, “Streams In The Desert, Volume One”)

J. C. G. Trumbull (1872-1941)
Author from England

“An assured part of GOD’s pledged blessing to us is delay and suffering. A delay in Abram’s own lifetime that seemed to put GOD’s pledge beyond fulfillment was followed by seemingly unendurable delay of Abram’s descendants. But it was only a delay: they *‘came out with great substance.’* The pledge was redeemed.

GOD is going to test me with delays; and with the delays will come suffering, but through it all stands GOD’s pledge: HIS new covenant with me in CHRIST, and HIS inviolable promise of every lesser blessing that I need. The delay and the suffering are part of the promised blessing; let me praise HIM for them today; and let me wait on the LORD and be of good courage, and HE will strengthen my heart.” (Taken from the book, “Streams In The Desert, Volume One”)

Note: The following five poems were written by unknown authors and are taken from the book, “Streams In The Desert, Volume One.”

When I cannot understand my FATHER’s leading,
And it seems to be but hard and cruel fate,
Still I hear that gentle whisper ever pleading,
GOD is working, GOD is faithful, ONLY WAIT.

Be quiet! why this anxious heed
About thy tangled ways?
GOD knows them all. HE giveth speed
And HE allows delays.
'Tis good for thee to walk by faith
And not by sight.
Take it on trust a little while.
Soon shalt thou read the mystery aright
In the full sunshine of HIS smile.

Trust and rest when all around thee
Puts thy faith to sorest test;
Let no fear or foe confound thee,
Wait for GOD and trust and rest.

Trust and rest with heart abiding,
Like a birdling in its nest,
Underneath HIS feathers hiding,
Fold thy wings and trust and rest.

O troubled soul, beneath the rod,
Thy FATHER speaks, be still, be still;
Learn to be silent unto GOD,
And let HIM mould thee to HIS will.

O praying soul, be still, be still,
HE cannot break HIS plighted Word;
Sink down into HIS blessed will,
And wait in patience on the LORD.

O waiting soul, be still, be strong,
And though HE tarry, trust and wait;
Doubt not, HE will not wait too long,
Fear not, HE will not come too late.

I longed to walk along an easy road,
And leave behind the full routine of home,
Thinking in other fields to serve my GOD;
But JESUS said, “MY time has not yet come.”

I longed to sow the seed in other soil,
To be unfettered in the work, and free,
To join with other laborers in their toil,
But JESUS said, “Tis not MY choice for thee.”

I longed to leave the desert, and be led
To work where souls were sunk in sin and shame,
That I might win them; but the MASTER said,
“I have not called thee, publish here MY Name.”

I longed to fight the battles of my KING,
Lift high HIS standards in the thickest strife;
But my great CAPTAIN bade me wait and sing
Songs of HIS conquests in my quiet life.

I longed to leave the uncongenial sphere,
Where all alone I seemed to stand and wait,
To feel I had some human helper near,
But JESUS bade me guard one lonely gate.

I longed to leave the round of daily toil,
Where no one seemed to understand or care;
But JESUS said, “I choose for thee this soil,
That thou might’st raise for ME some blossoms rare.”

And now I have no longing but to do
At home, or else afar, HIS blessed will,
To work amid the many or the few;
Thus, “choosing not to choose,” my heart is still.

CONCLUSION

It is clear from the study of GOD’s Word, that, “**The Discipline Of Waiting On GOD**” is a principle very dear to the heart of the LORD ... and thus a principle very important for us to follow. Because this principle can be so difficult to live out, we obviously need GOD’s abundant grace and power to do so. Indeed, as we avail ourselves of this Divine grace and power, and then choose through obedience to live out this principle, we actually become more and more like the LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF! (See II Peter 1:3-8)

Are you waiting for the LORD to move on your behalf in some area of your life? If you’re confident that it is also GOD’s will, then be patient and persevere ... HE will answer, HE will work!

“And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our GOD, we have waited for HIM, and HE will save us, this is the LORD, we have waited for HIM, we will be glad and rejoice in HIS salvation.”
Isaiah 25:9

“For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O GOD, beside THEE, what HE hath prepared for him that waiteth for HIM.”
Isaiah 64:4

MY LIFE COMMITMENT

“HEAVENLY FATHER, I have discovered from the study of YOUR Word, the importance of developing this discipline of **“Waiting on THEE”**. I accept the truth that it is to be a significant component of my personal, family and ministry life. Please forgive me when I take my eyes off of you and display impatience, frustration and even anger in waiting for YOU to act on my behalf. I now purpose, through YOUR grace and the power of YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, to learn to **“Wait on THEE”** for all of my needs. I praise and thank YOU now in anticipation for the glorious benefits that will result because of this discipline. I pray this in the Name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST and for HIS glory, Amen.”

Signed: _____

Date: _____

**Picture of Eric’s Praying Hands
(no caption)**