

Waiting on God

- ➔ There's a truth I encountered and swallowed about 7 months ago that has energized and renewed my prayer life and strengthened my walk with God over the past 7 months, and I'm just beginning to **scratch its surface**.
 - I pray that God does something, **deposits something**, in your heart to begin you studying and seeking Him in this. I can't give you a **comprehensive teaching** on this in a brief time
 - Not claiming this as a fresh revelation – careful when there is teaching that has an edge to it of “special revelation”, implying a superiority over what is being taught in the mainstream church. People catch that attitude and go off chasing niche teachings and go off-track, believing that everyone around them is a back backward or misled
- ➔ Isa 64:4 Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.
 - The Bible says that **when we wait and He works**. Who wants God to work in your life? You must learn to wait. [Picture of God waiting until we wait.] He's like to work but you're too busy working so He has to wait until we wait.
- ➔ [Travelling plugs story – appliances don't work without being plugged in, and your laptop stops working when the battery dies] We are created to plug into God, our spirit is the plug and uniquely fits into God – appliance's full potential comes out when we plug in
 - We do not have a fountain of life in ourselves, we need to receive it daily and constantly (only Jesus had life in himself). John 5:26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.
 - We are the creation, He is the creator – **waiting on God is plugging** into His life energy, assuming the correct place of the creation relative to creator
 - Just as **man doesn't have a hand in the work of creation**, he also doesn't have a hand in the work of redemption. We have to co-operate with God but all of the transformation and work is done by Him
 - **Andrew Murray** “Our heart is the scene of a divine operation more wonderful than creation. We can do as little towards the work as towards creating the world, except as God works in us to will and to do. God only asks us to yield, to consent, to wait on Him, and He will do it all.”
- ➔ Waiting is a pattern stamped strongly throughout the Bible in reference to men seeking God and the things of God
 - Isaiah 40:29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who **wait** on the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. **For God's life in us. Wait is “cavah” – means to intertwine**
 - Isa 26:8 Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. **An expression of desire for God.**

- Isa 30:18 Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! **For God's Mercy and Justice.**
 - Ps 37:34 Wait for the Lord and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land. **For an Inheritance.**
 - Lam 3:24-26 I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. **For God's Goodness.**
 - Micah 7:7 But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.
 - Luke 2:25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. **For the Kingdom of God.**
 - John 3:29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. **For the Presence of Jesus.**
 - Acts 1:4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. **For the Holy Spirit.**
 - Rom 8:19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we **wait eagerly** for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.
 - **Abraham** (promise and waiting – with Hagar he stopped waiting), **Joshua** (in tabernacle – God prepared him for the promised land), **David** (victory over enemies – psalms show how he waiting in expectation and cried out to God), **prophets** (righteousness and justice), **Simeon** (for the Kingdom), disciples (Holy Spirit, prayer), **Paul** (years in wilderness), **John** (meditating in Revelation)
 - **Waiting brings many of God's promises into reality** – deeper experience of God comes through waiting on Him, breakthroughs come from waiting on God, faith grows strong as we learn to wait on God, transformation comes to our character as we wait on God, God moves through our lives as we wait on Him, God establishes our purpose in this life as we wait on Him, prayer comes alive when we wait on God
- Waiting on God is the secret to **deeper prayer**. Prayer is like a river that should grow in strength in our lives. A river should be deep and wide. **Deep** in that we connect meaningfully with God, **wide** in that the banks of our prayer life should overflow into our everyday life and often during our day we lift up our hearts in prayer to God – in worship, in thanks, in request, in conversation

- ➔ So what is waiting on God? It the way to deepen and widen your prayer life
 - We wait on God – before diving into prayer, **we wait to connect** with God and see what He wants to do
 - We wait for God – for many works of God, we need to learn **patience** and waiting to inherit His promises
 - We wait in God - it cultivates attitude of patience, dependence and hunger for God that spill over into a life of prayer

Deepened prayer times – a new way to pray

- ➔ So how do we experience the river getting deeper, our prayer lives connecting more powerfully to God and our plugs getting connected into their source in daily prayer times?
- ➔ **Andrew Murray** “In every prayer there are two hearts in exercise. The one is your heart with its little, dark, human thoughts of what you need and what God can do. The other is God’s great heart with its infinite, divine purposes of blessing. What do you think? To which of these two should the larger place be given in your approach to Him? Undoubtedly to the heart of God; everything depends on knowing and being occupied with that”
- ➔ Analogy of a busy child, playing with toys and talking to himself, parent needs to raise voice to get attention, God doesn’t often raise His voice
 - Waiting in prayer is stopping our busyness and paying full attention to God, to see what He does and what He says
 - The **first goal of prayer should be to connect with the Presence** of God in prayer
- ➔ Ps 37:7,9 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him...those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.
 - The most powerful **prayer begins with stillness** – in our thoughts, desires and fears, and connecting with God
 - Ps 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”
- ➔ Madame Guyon, Andrew Murray and many others talk of the secret of prayer being to first connect with God’s Presence through waiting on Him, then to pray
- ➔ **Practically** – quieten your mind to focus on God (read, write or music worship) and then spend the first 5 minutes of prayer just focusing on God but without.
- ➔ This is the “**waiting on**” God. Ps 130:6 My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.
- ➔ But then we must learn to present requests to God and “**wait for**” him to move.
 - Ps 5:3 In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

- Heb 6:15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.
 - Rom 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.
- ➔ **So why do we have to wait?** James 1:4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing
- When we learn to wait patiently, God works in us and we learn the secret of “**waiting in**” God
 - This means that the Holy Spirit cultivates the right attitudes in us as we wait on God – dependence, humility, desire, surrender, faith

Widened prayer – a fresh way to walk with God

- ➔ Hosea 12:6 So you, by the help of your God, return; Observe mercy and justice, and wait on your God continually.
- ➔ Andrew Murray “Continuity is one of the essential elements of life. Interrupt it for a single hour in a man, and it is lost, he is dead. Continuity, unbroken and ceaseless, is essential to a healthy Christian life. I wait on Him every moment to make me what He expects of me, and what is pleasing in His sight. Waiting on God is the true essence of Christian life, and the maintenance of the spirit of dependence must be continuous. Although there may be special times of waiting, the disposition and habit of the soul must be there continually.”
- ➔ Waiting on God in moments of prayer throughout the day brings the ability for us to connect more deeply and constantly with God’s Presence as we go through our every day lives
- Takes the river of God’s Presence wider in our lives
 - Opportunity to re-connect the plug frequently during the day to our lifesource
- ➔ Since I read Brother Lawrence – “Practicing the Presence of God” I’ve made it my lifegoal to reach a point where I live a day totally in the experience of God’s Presence. Some secrets (i) lift up an affectionate heart to God often during the day, (ii) take some time to pray before decisions, tasks or challenging issues, (iii) often just realize you are in God’s Presence, (iv) walk in purity
- ➔ Waiting on God in decisions
- When you face a decision, lift up your heart and wait on God for a while. He won’t always answer but He will do something in your life – give you peace, wisdom, make path straight
 - Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight

Conclusion

- ➔ Isaiah 64:4 – if we wait more, God will work more.
- ➔ Learning to wait will deepen and widen our prayer lives
- ➔ In times of prayer we must learn to begin by “waiting on” God
- ➔ Then when we have challenges and desires we commit them to God in prayer and we learn to “wait for” God - wait patiently for God’s promises and for breakthrough in trials
- ➔ And we must desire the river to widen so that prayer and the experience of God’s Presence becomes a more regular feature of our day
 - Cultivate an attitude of bowing your heart to wait for God at times during the day, to experience His Presence and hear His voice
 - A great way to do that is to pause before decisions and commit them to the Lord